

15. AUG. 1949

THE

# *Country* GUIDE

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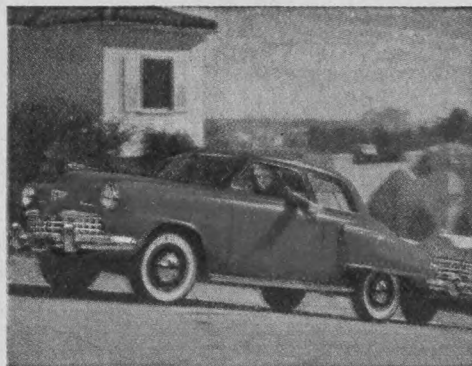
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[Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts.]

## THE *Country* GUIDE

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICES IN CANADA—50 cents one year; \$1.00 two years; \$2.00 five years; \$3.00 eight years. Outside Canada \$1.00 per year. Winnipeg City \$1.00 per year. Single copies 5 cents. Authorized by the Postmaster-General, Ottawa, Canada, for transmission as second-class mail matter.

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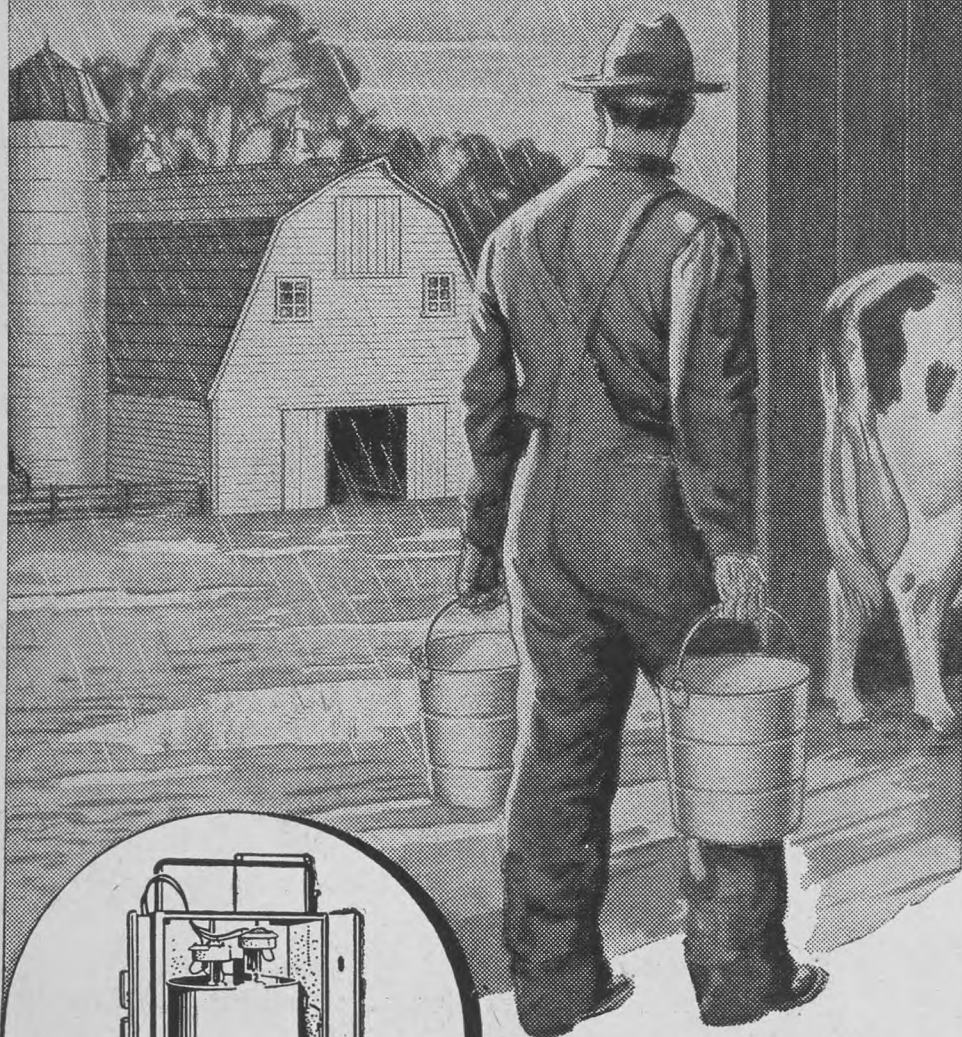
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## Under The Peace Tower

WHEN the people of Canada sent Hon. Louis St. Laurent and his Liberal government back to Ottawa with the biggest majority any party has had since Confederation, the voters gave them a big chore to do. It told the Liberals in effect that it had now the power and backing to do things that no government had been able to do before.

Canada was born in a bed of political compromise, and this has affected the offspring ever since. Nearly any other country you can think of came into the world through a revolution. We slowly emerged from a military outpost to the second largest nation in the world through a series of constitutional developments. Instead of the red blood of revolution running in our national veins, we are begat by a law book, mothered by a constitutional compromise. Those red blooded symptoms you see are not because of any blood-shedding beginning, but rather because our cold, hard climate has toughened us up as no revolution ever did. But still, we are, after 82 years, all too often, nationally, fond of the anemic half measure.

I suggest that we got our full growth finally on June 27, that like Topsy we have suddenly "grewed" and that we are ready for adult nationhood.

Now, they say the French nation was not founded by the freeing of the Bastille, but by a song, La Marseillaise. Not the least effective is the last line of that refrain:

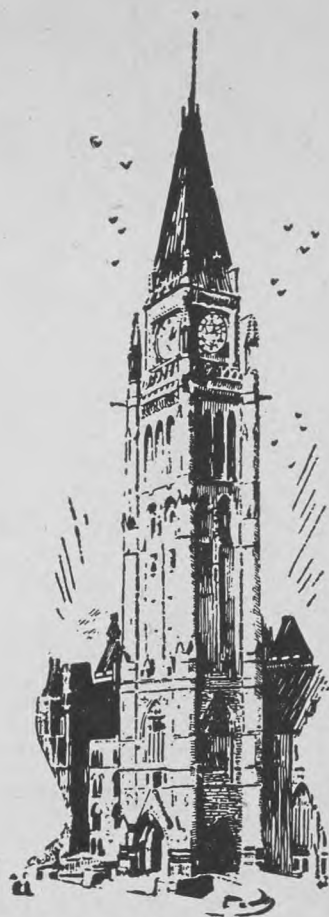
"Let the impure blood (of our enemies) may water our ditches."

Now after all these years, we have not yet settled on a national anthem. This means in effect that we have not finally put our approval on O Canada. For no other anthem is possible, as long as there is a Quebec. But getting right down to cases, what this means is that we shall have to agree on a standard translation of O Canada, and then by law make it the national anthem.

It does seem to me that we make a pretty poor showing at public gatherings, when half the people only half sing O Canada, whereas everybody seems to know the words of God Save the King. But as long as The King is taught in every school as the national anthem, while O Canada in some schools is relegated to the place of a minor anthem like Rule Britannia and the Maple Leaf, there is not much chance of O Canada emerging to its rightful place as the national anthem.

FOR one could never understand the lick-spittle colonialism of those who refused to sing "O Canada, our home our native land," when they never lived anywhere else but in Canada all their lives. Naturally, bigoted people attributed this song to Quebec, as if that were some special sin. I just say Canadians have sunk pretty low when they refuse to sing O Canada. Yet that happened as recently as five years ago here in the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, when Carleton County Conservatives shouted down O Canada and went on with "The King."

In any event, it is about time we got a national anthem. It is difficult to hold up our heads, and claim that we



are a mature nation, when we have not decided such things as this.

AGAIN, there is the flag question. I sat through some of the flag committee sittings here in Ottawa. It was always my belief that Prime Minister Mackenzie King brought up the flag question, if for no other reason than to show how difficult it was to settle. The deliberations of the flag question, in the end, came to nought.

The French Canadians wanted to eliminate the Union Jack altogether—at least the extremists did. Those not so nationalistic were willing to have it in one corner, but reduced in size. There is a heraldic significance to all this. If you reduce the Union Jack to less than a quarter of the size of the flag, you indicate a reduced influence of Britain on Canada. But some extremists wanted a Drapeau Canadien, a red and white affair with a green maple leaf, and an ugly thing for my money.

On the other hand, I heard Tory M.P.'s say that they would not permit anything but a Union Jack to fly from the post office in their town. Their bigotry and narrowness and colonial stupidity is of course on a par with the ravings of French isolationists in Quebec. But in neither case do they represent a majority.

But somehow in this parliament we shall have to get a new flag. It would seem that if common sense and compromise prevail (again that word compromise is inevitable!) we might have the Union Jack reduced in size. That done, we satisfy the French and also the more imperialistic English, and the other details could be worked out easily.

Not a few still favor the Canadian Ensign, as is. But it is questionable just how much Quebec would favor it, and after all, there is no use trying to ram a flag down their necks that they don't like.

Then with an anthem selected and a flag chosen, there is another colonial hangover to be handled. That is the appeal to the Privy Council. In other Turn to page 45





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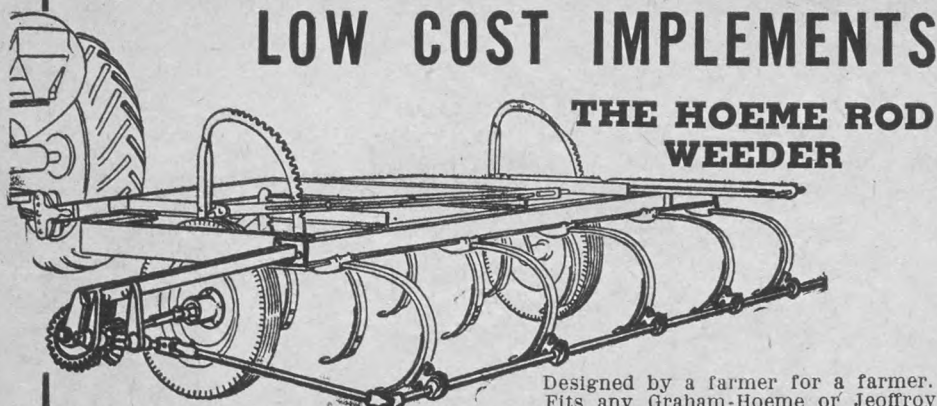
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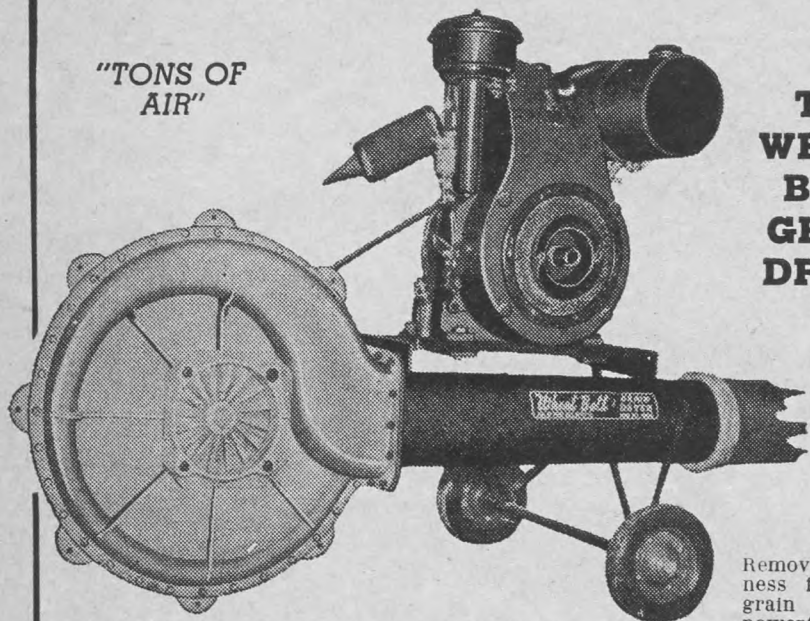


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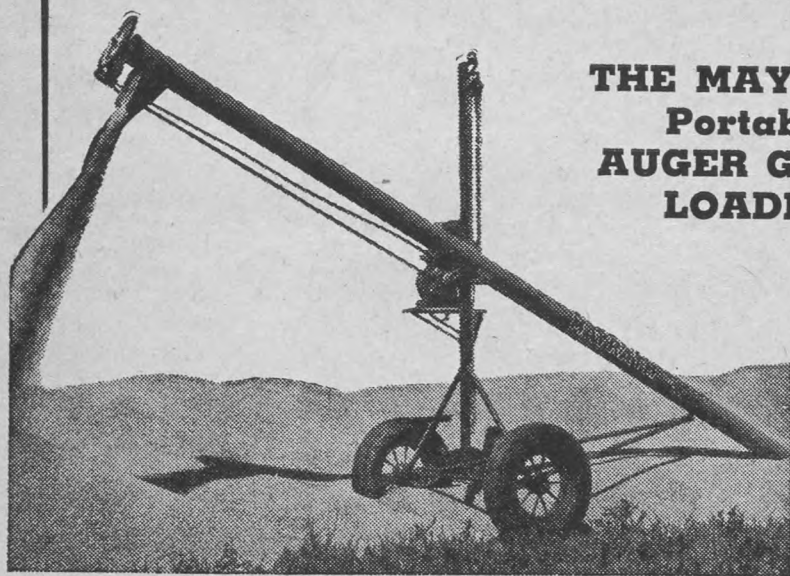


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## Britain's Dollar Plight Hits B.C.

*It may be that British Columbia's current economic history will be divided into pre-Cripps and post-Cripps eras*

by CHAS. L. SHAW

THE overseas cables telling the story of Britain's economic plight are unpleasant reading for the people of British Columbia not only because they believe the British have had too much trouble already and deserve a better break, but because the enforced restrictions on United Kingdom buying in the dollar area hit B.C. particularly hard.

As this column has emphasized before, no province in Canada has depended to such a great extent on exports for her continuing well-being as British Columbia. The province west of the Rockies produces far more lumber and canned fish, base metals, pulp and paper, apples and a few other agricultural items than it can possibly absorb itself—far more indeed than can be marketed in Canada alone. For that reason B.C. has customarily sought, and won, markets in many countries.

The tradition of B.C. export trade has been that most of the overseas sales are made with the United Kingdom and the members of the British Commonwealth. Hence, when the U.K. and Australia, New Zealand and South Africa clamp the lid tight on dollar purchases the blow to B.C.'s economy is really terrific. The impact is being felt today in closing of pulp mills, curtailed lumber production and so on.

However, only the confirmed pessimist would regard the situation as anything more serious than a temporary interruption of what has been for B.C. a boom of very substantial proportions and unusually long duration. The products that have comprised B.C.'s exports in most cases represent goods that cannot be so easily or cheaply produced elsewhere, and sooner or later, as present surpluses decline, the markets will swing open for them again.

The problem, of course, is not one of market demand alone but of ability to pay. The United Kingdom would very much like to buy large quantities of canned B.C. salmon this year if she could afford to spend the dollars. Since she can't afford it, she is buying none. What this means to the fishing industry of the Pacific coast may be understood when it is recalled that only a few years ago Britain was buying every can of salmon that B.C. could produce.

THE same holds true in slightly modified degree with respect to lumber. Britain wants B.C. lumber, but since she has to buy where dollars aren't insisted on for payment she is buying enormous quantities from Soviet Russia, of all places, and placing orders with west coast mills so small and at such modest prices that they would be regarded with contempt except for the lumbermen's recollection of past experiences and hopes for the future.

British Columbia's farm economy will be adversely affected by the United Kingdom's buying policies. Almost every division of production will be hit to some extent, especially those that have been represented in the past by a fairly large exportable surplus.

The poultrymen may receive the

hardest blow of all because during the war years and the period following immediately thereafter the British Columbia egg industry enjoyed a mild boom.

If the egg contracts are not renewed—and there seems now to be grave danger of this development—the B.C. egg industry will be faced by the most difficult situation in years. Few people realize the extent to which the egg trade soared during the war years—from \$4,800,000 in 1939 to more than \$15,000,000 last year.

But the fear of shrinking markets fell upon the industry long before the reality of it, with the result that scores of marginal operators in the egg business withdrew from it during and after the extremely tough 1948-49 winter and production has fallen off precipitously. British Columbia is accounting for only a tiny fraction of the British egg contract this year; before, her share was about 10 per cent. The hatch has shown a fairly steady decline during the past three years.

In other years the existence of the United Kingdom market was an important stabilizing influence because the poultryman knew that even if he had a substantial surplus over and above domestic sales it would be absorbed by the export orders. Without this assurance the poultryman has much less security, and he is wondering what he can do about it. The U.S. market offers a possibility; so does government price support legislation, which is being advocated by the B.C. Poultry Industries Council, clearing house for the industry.

BUT if the western Canadian egg producer wants to make a serious impression on the United States market it is recognized that he will have to submit to closer regulation and inspection. Otherwise there is always the danger of inferior quality eggs crossing the border and contaminating the reputation of the industry's entire export output. But this is by no means an important hindrance because poultry producers in British Columbia will have no difficulty meeting the most severe quality tests. There is already a considerable flow of eggs and other poultry products across the border and north to Alaska.

Experienced egg producers are not excessively doleful. Some of them welcome the return of a more competitive situation which has eliminated some of the marginal operators who were not too concerned over high standards. But they would feel a lot happier if costs of operation were not so high. Application of export rates on all grains for poultry feed by the Canadian railways would help in this connection, and this was asked for when the Turgeon Royal Commission met on the coast recently.

Of course, the poultryman is only one of a great many with a special interest in rail rates. Representatives of almost every industry submitted a brief to the commission. Basically, British Columbia contends that transportation in Canada should be fixed on the cost of the service rather than on its purported value. Such a basis, the province's spokesmen maintained,

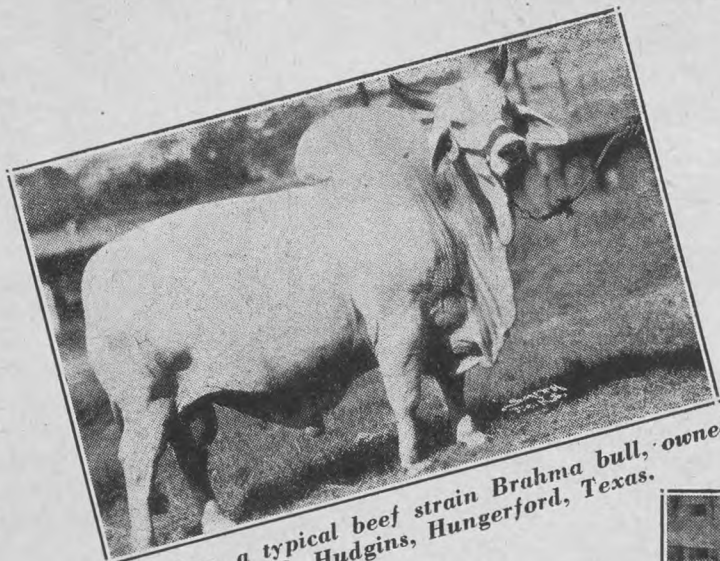
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# DOES CANADA NEED

## A New Beef Breed?

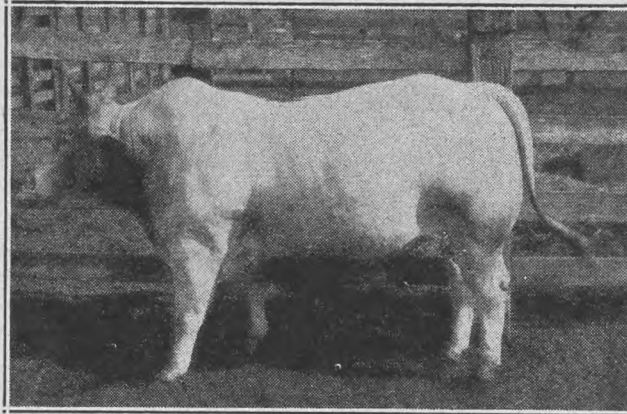
by P. M. ABEL



Josephus, a typical beef strain Brahman bull, owned by J. D. Hudgins, Hungerford, Texas.



A typical Charolais bull on the Turner and Thomas ranch, Weslaco, Texas.



A typical half-bred Brahman-Charolais bull.



Two "Charbray" heifers—one-fourth Brahman and three-quarters Charolais.

**Brahma crosses on European beef breeds indicate the possibility of producing an entirely new breed fashioned to meet the requirements of the Canadian range**

touring American ranches where Brahman blood is in use. His article deals in particular with the Santa Gertrudis breed, a new one developed in Texas by crossing Brahmas on Shorthorns. Elsewhere work is being done with Hereford crosses, and perhaps the most promising is the breeding work which has been conducted with Brahmas crossed on Charolais, a French breed of beef stock, inspiration for which stems from Fred Turner.

NOW Fred Turner, a Texan, was a doughboy in the first World War. While in France he came to admire the Charolais breed. Personally the writer doesn't see how he got that way. Judging entirely from photographs of them, of which we haven't seen many, we would say that Canadians would have to revise their standards completely before they fell in love with the breed. We would have to forget all we have learned from the Aberdeen-Angus breeders about smooth, blocky, compact bodies. We would have to quit striving for the low-set frame of the Hereford. We would have to get over our dislike of white

cattle on the range. Speaking strictly for himself the writer wouldn't have 'em for oxen. But this is Turner's story, and he liked them.

Turner was also familiar with Brahman cattle, and aware of what his countrymen hoped to get from their crosses. He conceived the idea of developing a new breed from the Brahman-Charolais cross, but he couldn't legally get his hands on any French cattle to make a start because of an embargo against the importation into the United States of cattle from foot-and-mouth countries. Turner had plenty of determination, however, and the funds to back it up. After years and years of persistent devising he got some Charolais breeding stock into his pastures. It is whispered, perhaps untruthfully, that he imported them into Mexico, and smuggled them, one at a time, into shipments of Mexican beeves bound for American packing plants.

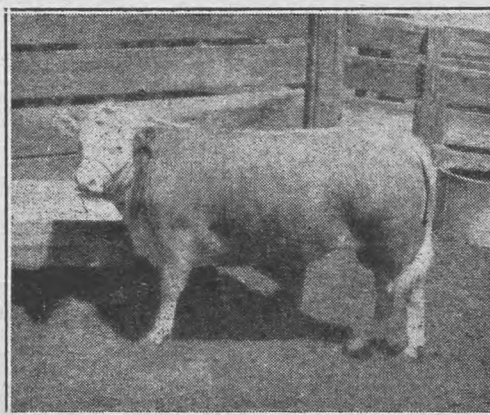
THE new breed that arose from Turner's cross-breeding was named Charbray, thus perpetuating the American mispronunciation of the parent Indian name. In due course other American cattle men became interested. The Charbrays became distributed over a wide stretch of country. As good a judge of commercial cattle as Harry Hargrave says that we in Canada cannot afford to overlook the qualities of this newly-emerged breed. If Canada is to entertain the idea of experimenting with Brahman blood, he would like to see Charolais blood included in the foundation material.

Such an idea is being seriously entertained. Ranchers who have been watching the results of Brahman crossing have already proposed to the Dominion Department of Agriculture that a breeding station should be established in southern Alberta as part of the experimental farm system, and that a long-range breeding program should be set underway forthwith, aimed at the development of a new breed specially designed for Canadian range conditions.

It might be a good thing to transfer the Cattalo experiment from Wainwright to be continued at the proposed beef breeding centre. This cross between the native buffalo and domestic cattle seems to have drifted into shallow water. There is no official statement of progress on it. Nobody seems to be able to gauge its chance of final success. Harry Hargrave declares that everywhere he

went in the range states last year he was quizzed as to the progress Canada was making with Cattalo, a breed experiment which seems to have dropped out of the news.

The Guide does not know what the reply of the government will be (Turn to page 21)



A Charolais-Hereford cross on the Harold Hunt ranch, El Centro, Cal.

CANADIAN ranchers began to compare notes with Americans who have been toying with Brahman crosses for 30 years. They discovered that there are several strains of Brahman cattle. In India, their homeland, some strains have been developed for milking purposes. Only two strains are said to be valuable for beef breeding. Bulls of the former strains may have done well in the Calgary Stampede arena, but to put them on the cactus plains would be stupid. And so it depends in the first place on what kind of Brahmas you use for making the first cross.

Regarding the beef strains of Brahmas, Americans have been obliged to acknowledge some remarkable facts. Quarter-breeds with three parts European blood feed better and grow to greater weights than ordinary run-of-the-mill American range stock. On the high California and Colorado ranges they have proved good rustlers. In the Gulf states they do better than ordinary cattle because of their relative immunity from insects. Stockmen who are familiar with them declare that they inherit from their Brahman ancestors the physiological habit of exuding a compound from their skins which repels flies.

The Guide issue of June contains the observations of Harry Hargrave, of our own Lethbridge Experiment Station, who spent a part of last winter



**L**IGHTNING will cause over a quarter of a million dollars damage to farm buildings in Manitoba this year. Other prairie regions will suffer in proportion. These losses are slightly greater than the annual losses from farm fires caused by heaters and kitchen stoves. Figures show that 75 per cent of all losses are in the country and that 90 per cent of the human casualties are struck while in rural areas.

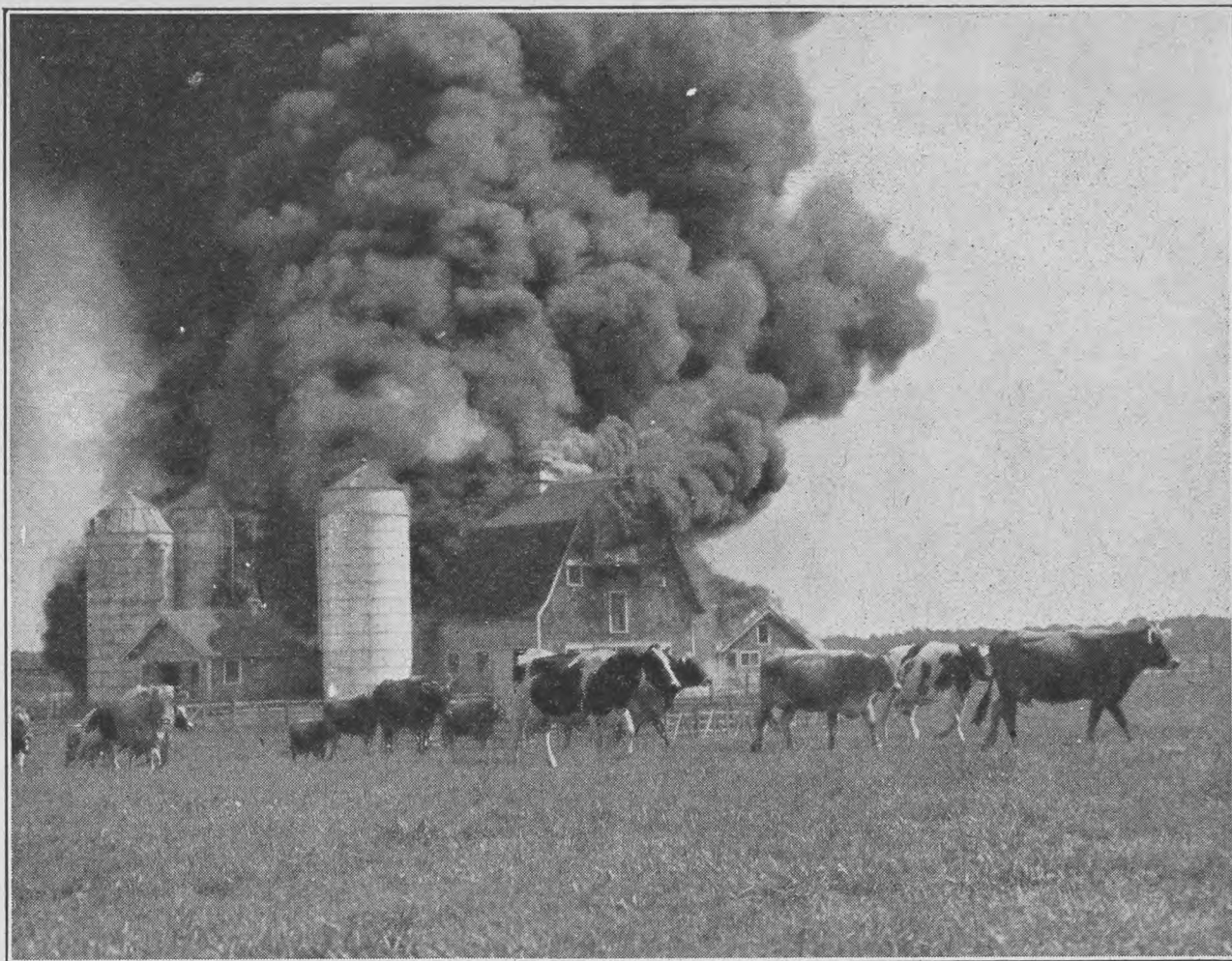
We have all produced thunder and lightning on a small scale by stroking a cat's back until the sparks fly and sharp, cracking sounds are heard. It is on a small scale to be sure but is of the same nature as the large discharges of electrical energy from one cloud to another and from clouds to the earth. Electrical currents travel the path of least resistance. In cities and towns, the tall buildings, smoke stacks, etc., which are equipped with lightning conductors make the most suitable path for the discharge. This protection for urban areas is significant and explains the statistics above.

Lightning is not all destructive. It does have some value. The intense heat produced in the flash breaks down oxygen in the air to form ozone—often detected by its distinctive odor. The process is accompanied by the fixation of nitrogen—estimated to amount to about 100 million tons on this continent annually.

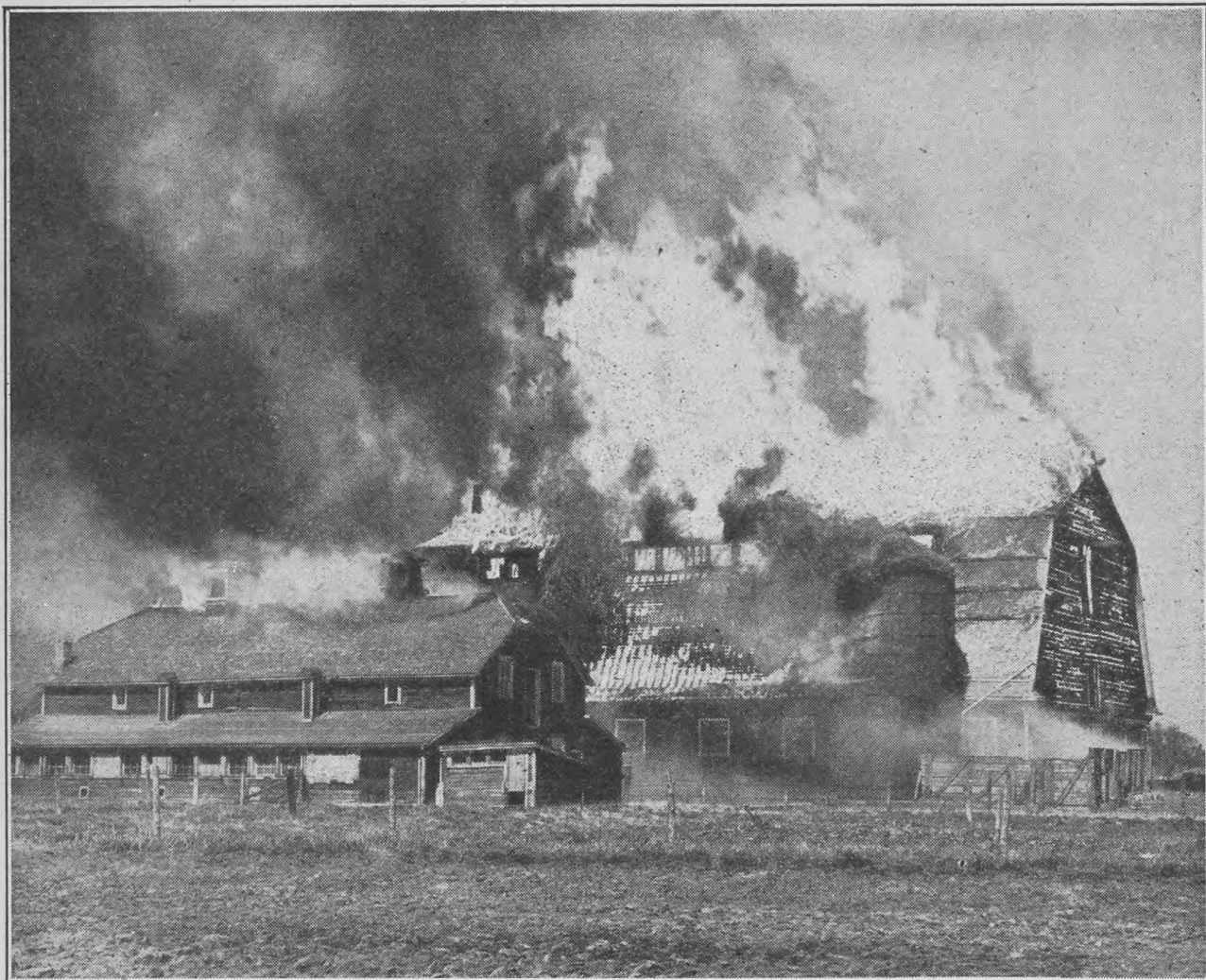
# How

# Does Lightning Strike You?

by R. G. MARTIN



*Luckily the cattle were not in the barn when lightning struck.*



*A direct hit on the barn soon spread to this Manitoba piggery—nothing was saved.*

During an electrical storm the clouds become charged with particles which are usually positive. The ground and objects on the ground become negatively charged. The power of these charges increases and reaches immeasurable proportions—estimated to be in the realm of from 20 million to a billion volts. It takes high voltages to make the spark in gasoline engines jump one-quarter of an inch but “sparks in the sky” have been recorded as jumping 20 miles from a negative cloud to a positive one. Flashes to the ground are usually about one mile long.

***It will strike Canada several million times this year. Lightning fire losses on the continent will total about 50 million dollars***

Electricity flowing along an adequate conductor does not do damage. We can stand under a high-voltage power line and not be injured in any way but if we touch the line or let large currents flow through our bodies we become part of the circuit and get a shock or burn. Lightning discharges be-

have the same as generated power in this respect.

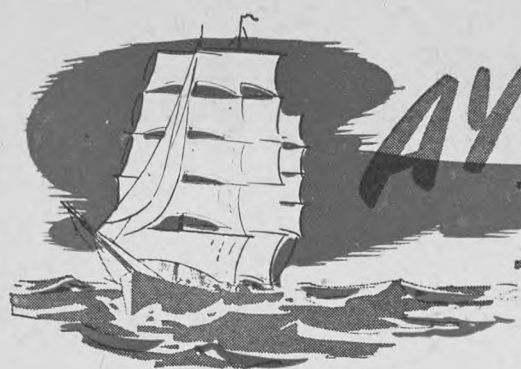
Since farms are very vulnerable to lightning damage, all buildings should be protected. The value of lightning-protection equipment is recognized by all fire insurance companies who grant reductions in the rates where installations have been made according to their standards. Provincial legislation in most provinces of the Dominion lays down the requirements for adequate installations and provides for licensing of capable companies to sell and instal the material.

**C**ONTRARY to popular belief, lightning rods or points do not ward off flashes but actually attract them. If points are installed at strategic locations on the building, and are properly grounded all discharges from the clouds will strike the points and run to the ground without doing any damage. Thus rods need not be long—about 10 inches is sufficient, but they must be placed at the highest points—along ridges, on chimneys and at the ends of dormers. The cable should provide a direct path from the points to ground and most barns or houses should be provided with at least two grounds.

There are some very interesting cases of lightning damage. One freak shot struck an oak tree in Alabama, killing 37 sheep which were passing by. When the farmer came looking for his missing animals he found them lying in perfect single file along the path—eighteen south of the tree and 19 north. The all-time record for a flash was established in 1926 in New Jersey. A naval munitions depot was struck, with 21 people killed, 80 buildings wrecked and \$85 million damage.

Lightning does strike twice. The Empire State Building is struck several times during every storm in that vicinity. Thunder and lightning do not curdle milk however—bacteria multiplying in the increased humidity do that. It doesn't come in through open windows or (Turn to page 27)





# AYE-AYE, MISTER MATE

by Bill Adams

*As a first voyager Gregory had got a larger than usual hunk of humble pie—now he was second in command—the skipper realized that he had a poor crew and a peculiar second mate*

Illustrated by J. H. Petrie

**Y**OU'VE heard, I suppose, of men whose patience is inexhaustible; of men who can remain phlegmatic through anything whatever? I've heard of them, too.

Take Gregory. I'll tell you about Gregory. He was tolerably well known in the old windjammer days of some fifty years or so ago.

I don't know anything of Gregory's life before he went to sea. Nothing at all. I don't know if he had parents, brothers, or sisters. All I know of him is after he went to sea. Maybe it was his upbringing that made him as he was. Maybe he had been brought up by some very religious person who trained him in the way that person thought was the right way for him to go. Perhaps in his early days he had been what is nowadays known as "repressed." The bubbles had been bottled down, so to speak. Or maybe it was simply his nature that made him as he was.

Gregory was eighteen when he started to sea—old enough to have a mind of his own, old enough to resent being overridden continually. Most lads of his age would at least have looked a bit rebellious, at any rate sometimes.

Gregory was the only green hand, the only first voyager, among the apprentices of the ship in which he started to sea. That was how he came to be bossed so much. You know how it was. He had to wait on the others, had to be sort of a sea-going butler to them. It was the sea custom, and good custom too. Nothing like a hunk of humble pie for the first voyager. But he got a rather larger hunk of humble pie than common. It was up to him to fetch the meals at every meal time, and to carry the empty mess kits back to the cook afterwards. It was up to him to keep the quarters clean and shipshape, to see that the lamp was kept full and rightly trimmed, and so forth. It was for him to run every time the mate blew his whistle for an apprentice to do some job or another in the dog-watch when every sea apprentice likes, and expects, to be left to himself. Usually when there is only one green hand in a half deck the apprentices more or less share up all those things. But there was no sharing up with Gregory.

It was owing in part to his size, but mostly to his manner, that Gregory's fellow apprentices treated him as they did. He was taller than any of them, and he looked older. Several who were some years older than he looked younger. Some were younger. Because age doesn't count in seniority aboard ship, he had to wait on those younger ones as well as on others. It's sea experience that counts in seniority. And the youngsters particularly took it out on him a good deal. It was rather good fun, of course, to have such a big first voyager to boss.

**G**REGORY never made the slightest kick. He was utterly phlegmatic about it. And, of course, it was not long before the others were setting him down as easy. They took him for a fellow with no backbone, without any pride; and they got to ragging him quite a bit. He took that calmly, too. It didn't appear to have the slightest effect on him. He never became the least bit sore, so after a while they quit ragging him because there was no fun in it. They set him down as a queer fish and let it go at that. They said, all of them, "He'll never make an officer. There's no ginger in him. He's too soft."

But after a time, as the voyage progressed, Gregory's shipmates in the apprentices' quarters changed their minds. They found that he was quite wide awake in some respects, and that he was not so soft in others. He picked up the names of the ropes and so forth a good deal faster than most first voyagers; and, though he seemed to make no effort at all, he began to show that there were some seamanlike qualities in him.

If a sea came over the rail, knocking him down and soaking him and the other apprentices, they growled, of course. Gregory never growled. He didn't growl when he was too hot, or too cold, or when the grub was bad, or when his sleep was disturbed. Nothing seemed to faze him. "He's too blasted gentlemanly," said one. Another said, "No. He's just simple-minded." And they all agreed on that. Long before the end of the voyage they lost interest in him. He was a queer fish, and that was all there was to it.

**G**REGORY kept to himself, didn't open up and confide in anyone at all. And no one was sufficiently interested in him to try and dig into his reserve. There didn't appear to be any mean streak, any selfishness, in him; and since he was free from that, the worst of all sins at sea, he was not objectionable.

Even the mate tried to get Gregory mad at first, and failed. As a rule mates don't go out of the way to try out an apprentice, but this was once when a mate did so. He not only kept every nasty, dirty, finicking job for Gregory, but he swore at him a good deal when there was no real reason for it. On a fine evening, when all hands were peacefully walking the deck or sitting yarning on the hatches, the mate would go down to the main deck, take a jerk on a skysail buntline and break the stop. Then the buntline, which had been perfectly all right before, would need overhauling. "You, Gregory, hop aloft and overhaul the buntline!" the mate would order. That's an old trick of mates with young apprentices, and it never fails to rile the victim. But it never riled Gregory. Up to the skysail mast he'd climb, his bland expression never in the least changed. As for swearing at him, that was like pouring water on a duck's back. He never seemed to hear it.

Gregory remained unaltered through the four years of his apprenticeship. By the end of it he was a tall fellow of twenty-two, and a lot huskier than you'd expect such a long-limbed, slender youngster to be. And he'd never been known to hurry since the first day he came aboard. That was another queer thing about him. There didn't seem to be such a thing as hurry in his makeup. He went about everything at an even gait. But he was never behindhand. He always "got there" just about as soon as anyone else. It was because of those long, spindly-looking limbs of his. To see him making for the ropes, or climbing aloft, reminded you of one of those long-legged spiders that, scarcely seeming to move their legs, get over a floor or wall in no time at all.

"I'd like to see that fellow Gregory if he ever does get a move on," the mate said to the second mate one day, "I'd like

(Turn to page 30)

*The old Dane, sheath-knife in hand, chased the cook from the forecabin.*





# Our Screwball Tribe



by EDDIE OLYNUK

Illustrated by JAMES SIMPKINS

IT USUALLY happened of a crisp January evening that Mom, Pop and I would plan our business for the coming year. After we were thoroughly satisfied that we hadn't lost as much money as we thought during the past year, we got out all the catalogs and price lists. The hatcheries and farm supply houses kept us well supplied with a numerous variety of these books. The top desk drawer was always chock full.

We sat around the kitchen table poring over this literature and jotting notes and adding figures with much deliberation. Nobody spoke very much except to ask someone else to pass a pencil, an eraser, the bottle of ink, or Mom would ask father if he shut the cow barn door. On cold nights the door was shut and when it chinked it was left open and Bessie was free to stay in or out according to her liking. This practise usually meant less wear on the cleaning shovel.

After looking into space for some time with a very pensive expression on her face, Mom said, "I think we should try turkeys for a change; they're not much trouble to raise."

My mother and I had wanted to raise turkeys the last two or three years, but were always overruled by father. So this suggestion invariably brought a snort and a guffaw from him. "After you've had them a couple months you'll wish you'd never seen a turkey," he scoffed.

The preparations always brought with them much cogitation, discussion and argument. This year was to be no exception for we were determined to have turkeys and were prepared to make an issue of it. Chickens had been our mainstay the past seven or eight years and it was thought high time for a change. The previous year we raised a bunch of Hampshire cockerels and took a beating financially and mentally. They were all penned up together, about 300, and their constant bickering and fighting took the pounds off them and the money from our pockets. And their noise was enough to drive anyone whacky. Had we known sooner that a slight surgical operation on each one would have rendered them peaceful and gentle as lambs, we would have saved ourselves a great deal of money and trouble. As it was we rid ourselves of them at the first opportunity, vowing never to have another on the place unless a few for our own use.

"I THINK turkeys are our best bet," I chimed in with my opinion, however lightly it might be taken.

"That makes it two to one, Pop," Mom said. "You might as well make it unanimous."

Pop at this point left the discussion to retire for the night. He was probably wishing that we would give up everything for I think he was beginning to tire of building roosts, sheds, troughs and the like. Worst of all, probably, was the thought of all the changing that would be necessary if we really did decide on turkeys.

Well, turkeys it was and the following April there came one morning a half dozen cardboard boxes each containing 25 turkey poults. We had been preparing for them for a month or more; cleaning and sterilizing every inch in our make-shift brooder house; setting up and testing the oil brooder stove; placing feed troughs and water founts in the best possible arrangement, rounding off the corners of the brooder house with cardboard as a precaution against piling up as this is a favorite trick of turkeys young and old.

The railway station being several miles from home we had the proprietor of the general store drive over with his small truck and pick them up for us. When he arrived with the crates piled up in the front seat beside him, we grabbed two boxes each, threw cloths over them so the poults wouldn't be chilled and ran with them to the brooder house.

We had the greater part of them out of the boxes when father, who had a penchant for bringing unwanted news, informed us that the stove was out; that the tank was dry, and further that he thought there was none to be had at the oil shed which was run in conjunction with the store. His inquiry confirmed his belief and so the next 15 minutes were spent hastily scooping up the delicate, furry balls of life. When they were all back whence they had come we rushed them off to the house and made a place for them next to the kitchen stove. The stove was going great blazes in short order and their plaintive little peeps changed to happy little cheeps.

In addition to the poults we purchased from the hatchery we had six turkey hens setting each with 15 or more eggs and 10 chickens setting on eight

*A personal account of an Alberta family's conflict with a herd of unco-operative turkeys which nearly broke, but finally won their hearts*



or nine each. Our original plan had been to hatch half the poults and buy the other half. Right now I'll tell you that we were unsuccessful in this endeavor. One of the turkey hens we set broke every egg in the nest the very first night. When mother found her next morning the hen looked as if someone had tried to make an omelet of her.

IT WAS a real problem to keep some of the turkeys setting properly. They were in the right mood all right, but they would set for hours on end and then they would leave the nest and just lounge around for hours, which was definitely very detrimental to the prospective youngsters inside the eggs. The number of bad eggs mother had thrown out I couldn't attempt to enumerate. Along with three of the turkey hens there were seven chickens that hatched the bulk of the poults that we got in this manner. Although it can't be said the others did not contribute to some extent. One of the turkey hens for instance, came up with one whole poult as the result of a month of labor.

Anybody who says a mother turkey doesn't let a peep when a human attempts to take her clutch away is not altogether correct. This depends entirely on the hen. My first encounter with one of these animals caused me to alter my opinion of that theory. The first day I went into the setting house, and without much thought or discretion placed my hand in the nest to add more eggs, the hen lashed out with all her fury and nearly lacerated the whole back of my hand. I still have a small mark.

Turkeys aren't the smartest of creatures at any age, but when they're just hatched and for about a week after they're absolutely helpless and hopeless. Several hours had to be spent in teaching them how to eat and drink. Each one had to be conducted to the water fount and have its beak dipped in the drink. I read somewhere that it was dangerous to leave empty buckets and cartons lying around for they would be full of smothered turkeys in no time, so we made sure no container was left unturned.

Chickens fooled us on this count that very same year. About 30 leghorn cockerels, that were being raised for our own consumption, piled into an empty wooden feed box that had no cover. It was getting dusk at the time and they undoubtedly surmised it would be much nicer to sleep in the box than on the roosts. They were right. When I reached down to unpile them there was an armful that were having the deepest sleep they ever had or would have. We wrote that loss off to ignorance on their part and ours.

The turkeys did well for the remainder of the brooding period, and, with the exception of a few incidents, for the whole spring and summer. One of these incidents was the time a

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"My footing gave way and I crashed into a trough full of soggy bran."



# SONG

## IN THE NIGHT

by Paul Annixter

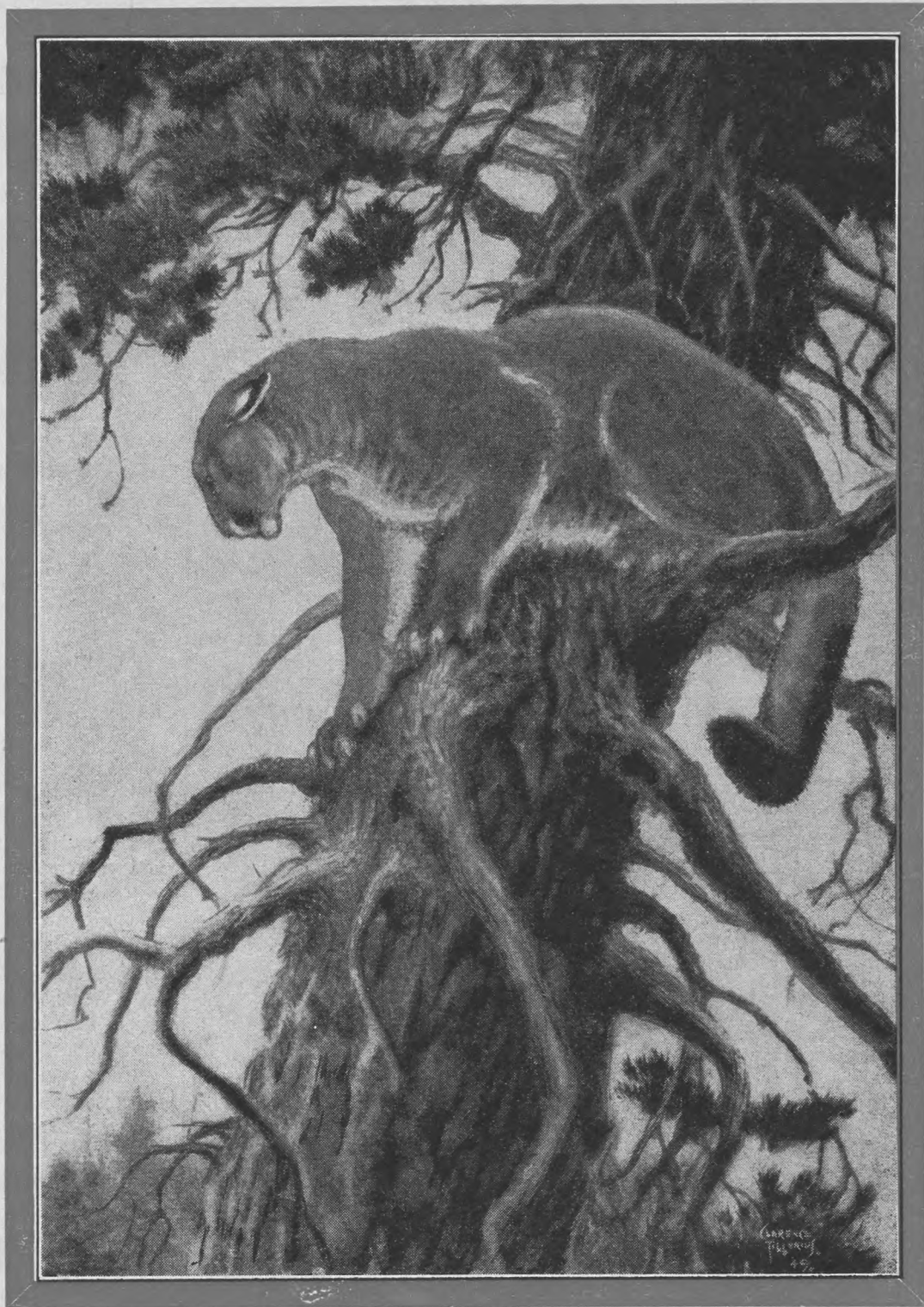
"NEVER kill a porcupine," is an old maxim of the green timber country that one hears everywhere—from guides and hunters around their night fires, even in clubs where sportsmen foregather. Ledyard had heard it innumerable times and put it down as pretty much sentimental rubbish. The porcupine was an utterly harmless animal, slow-moving and unwary, ran the argument; also he was good eating, what there was of him, and was to be found abroad at almost all seasons. Numerous times, according to record, human life had been saved in a pinch, by the killing of a porcupine, and because of this it had become a sort of unwritten law among hunters to let Porky go unmolested.

To Ledyard it was a lot of stuff and nonsense, like the shibboleth hunters had built up about shooting a sitting grouse or partridge. It wasn't sportsmanship, they claimed. Ledyard scorned these traditions of the game. He was young; had an intellectual outlook on such matters and prided himself that he could set up his own fetishes and break them at will. On the rare occasions when he could get away from his job for a hunting trip, he delighted in knocking over sitting birds and walking birds whenever he saw them; in fact, he wasn't above taking a pot shot at anything that ran, hopped or crawled. Any way he could bag a few tasty meals of wild game was okay with him.

As a boy he used to go "propping and prowling" through the woods with a .22 rifle, taking pot shots at chipmunks, tin cans and what have you. That had been real fun. These fools who had to live up to a lot of hide-bound rules didn't have fun. He was out in the woods now to forget and to have a good time. But so far he had had a hell of a time.

His miserable two weeks' vacation had come around as usual in October and he had decided to spend at least a week of it in the woods, with his rod and rifle. Three days of that week were already gone, and so far as hunting went they had been a perfect blank. Twice he had sighted deer disappearing in the distance, much too far off for a shot. Twice he had heard cock partridge drumming on some distant ridge. Beyond that, nothing, except the squirrels that chattered at him as he threaded the pines and the insolent jays that razed him about camp and stole his bread and hardtack. Each day he had managed to pull two or three trout from the swift stream that came rushing down from the mountains. He had eaten them till he was sick to death of trout.

The fact was, Ledyard was no better woodsman or hunter than he had been as a boy with his .22. It had been six years since he had been out in the woods. So news of his coming travelled ahead of him in numerous ways unguessed by him. The sound of his ax, the smoke of his fires, the reek of his fish and bacon, warned the wild of his doings for a mile around, so that while many eyes took note of his comings and goings, he himself was alone with his crabbed thoughts and his troubles, and the many small mishaps that accompany one who is not in tune with the forest.



All at once he knew that a huge cougar was crouching up there.

Ledyard was young and not an experienced woodsman. He thought he could set up his own sportsman's codes and break them when he pleased

It was toward sunset on this third day, near his camp, that Ledyard saw the porcupine. The animal was slowly descending backward, the trunk of a great pine, accompanied by the rasping of claws on bark and a total disregard of who or what might see him. From time to time he emitted small grunts and snufflings of petulance or satisfaction, pausing to wrinkle his blunt, black nose.

L EDYARD'S rifle had gone up on the instant and he was about to put a bullet through the animal when sheer curiosity stopped him. The porky had turned its black-grey, gnome-like face to eye the man with an expression at once mild and ludicrously irritable. He rattled his quills with a sound like someone rubbing two dry sticks together, then continued his downward progress, utterly fearless, calm with the immutable calm of the forest itself. Then Ledyard almost chuckled in spite of himself

at the sounds that issued from the little beast's throat—a little elemental song, it seemed to be, a sort of crooning sound interspersed with faint chattering and squeaks of indubitable delight and anticipation. It was almost too low for human ear to catch, yet it held Ledyard enchanted, for it was one of the rarest sounds in all nature, a sound few men have ever heard, for woodsmen deem the porcupine to be mute.

Ledyard tried to appraise the creature with the eye of a hungry man. Scarcely two feet long and covered from his eyes to the tip of his blunt tail with needlelike quills, there was obviously little meat on the animal's body, and the devil of it would be to get at what little there was through that panoply of quills and armor. Ledyard let his rifle drop into the crook of his arm again.

"All right, you little beggar!" he growled. "You win this trick. On your way."

The porcupine had reached the ground by now and Ledyard stood a few minutes more watching as it trundled away amid the thickets. Of all the wild folk this little beast was unique in that he dispensed with both speed and

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Illustrated by Clarence Tillenius



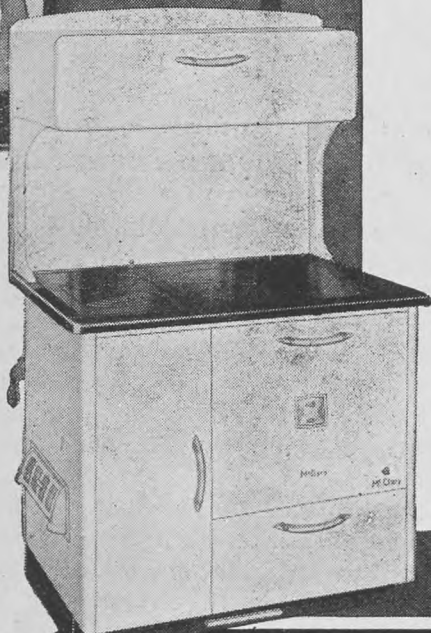
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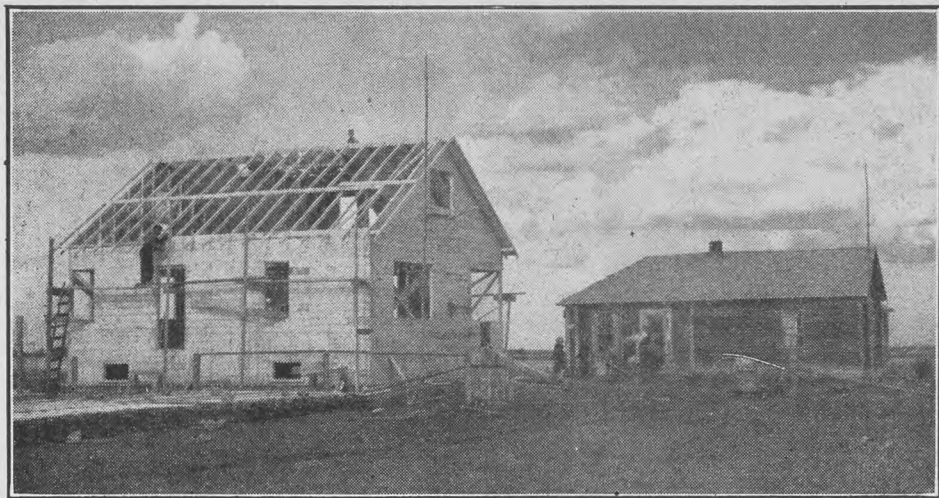
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## News of Agriculture



The old also gives way to the new in the matter of farm housing.

### Farm Income Up

**I**N the first three months of this year farmers' receipts from the sale of farm products reached a total of \$406,386,000, an increase of seven per cent over the corresponding period last year.

The increase was greater in the case of field crops, due to increased marketings of the five principal crops, and a higher price for wheat. Cash income from the sale of farm crops in the first three months of this year totalled \$133,878,000, an increase of 20 per cent over the corresponding period last year.

Income from the sale of livestock totalling \$264,776,000 is approximately the same as last year. With the exception of cattle and calves marketings were down from last year, but prices have offset this to such a degree that income has risen 20 per cent.

Farm receipts are up in all provinces in Canada with the exception of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

### More Production Per Person

**"O**ther countries produce as much food per acre as we do on this continent," said Henry Giese, at the Agricultural Engineering Convention at Michigan State College, "but we produce much more per man." The reasoning behind this statement is clear after an introduction to the people and discussions at the Convention.

President Schwantes pointed out that in 1820, one farmer produced enough food for four and one-half people. Today he produces enough for 15 people. Much of this increased productivity can be attributed to the increase in the use of mechanical equipment which has jumped from one and one-half to 35 horsepower per farm during the period. "Our goal must be greater intensification," he said, "with resulting increases in both quantity and quality of production."

Papers presented at the Convention by leading research workers and industrialists described advanced work being done in many fields. Automatic, electric feeders for poultry have been designed in Pennsylvania. They take the feed out of large hoppers and move it along the troughs with good control over the amount of grain or mash distributed. The trough is built to minimize spilling of the feed by the birds and is found to reduce feed costs. Various types of gutter cleaners for stanchion barns were illustrated and discussed. Although many installations have been made, no cheap, or easily-installed unit has been manufactured.

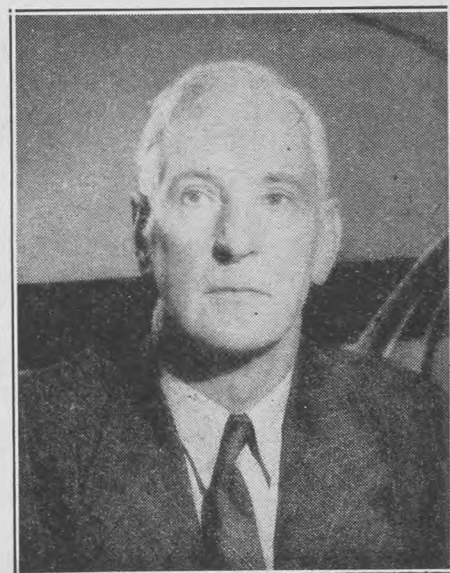
Fire-fighting equipment is now being built with consideration for farm conditions. Extremely high pressures are used to cause a spray of very fine particles. The heavy fog which is created smothers the flames quickly. Burning buildings are brought under control in 10 seconds of fogging; oil fires are similarly controlled. The big advantage with the system may be the economy of water. Six gallons is sufficient to quench most fires.

A. W. Turner of the Research Bureau of the U.S.D.A. gave some insight into the developments which might be expected in the future. He suggested that 10 per cent of the produce from the soil is lost before it reaches the consumer. Efficiency gains in recovering, conditioning and storing will be made to cut that loss down. Since there is an electro-magnetic field around a viable seed, the possibility of selecting good seeds by electrical means was forecast. Atomic developments are being followed closely with some radio-active research being done. Power application from this source is still problematical.

### New Appointments

**J**AMES R. BELL, previously Director of the Livestock Branch, in the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, has been named Deputy Minister of the department. John Conner, previously Assistant Livestock Commissioner, has been appointed to fill the position vacated by Mr. Bell.

Mr. Bell was born in 1891 at Clearwater, Manitoba, and received his high school education in that area, before entering the Manitoba Agricultural College. In 1916 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science of Agriculture degree. From the time he finished high school until he graduated Mr. Bell



James R. Bell





John Conner

Manitoba Civil Service as Specialist in Boys' and Girls' Club Work. In 1931 he was made Agricultural Representative for the Dauphin district. In 1941 he left to join the R.C.A.F., and on his return in 1945 he returned to the Department of Agriculture, where he was promoted to the position of Assistant Livestock Commissioner.

### Veterinarians In Alberta

**I**N the past Alberta, like the other western provinces, has had too few veterinarians in proportion to the livestock numbers to adequately prevent and control animal and poultry diseases. The policy of the Department of Agriculture of providing financial assistance for young men who are prepared to enter the profession is beginning to bring in returns.

Ten new veterinarians are locating in Alberta following their graduation this year from the Ontario Veterinary College. They will be starting practise at Westlock, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, Edmonton, Drumheller, Calgary, Chauvin, Crossfield and Cardston. In addition, veterinarians will locate at Vegreville, Bonnyville and Athabaska. With these extra veterinarians more work can be done in controlling Bang's disease, tuberculosis and other livestock diseases.

spent a lot of time working on the farm. Following graduation he entered the Manitoba Civil Service as Agricultural Representative for the Portage la Prairie district. In 1923 he was transferred to the Manitoba Livestock Branch, receiving the appointment as director the following year.

Mr. Conner was born in Deloraine, Manitoba, in 1907, attended high school at Deloraine, enrolled at the Manitoba Agricultural College and received his degree in 1930. Following graduation he was appointed to the

## Get It At A Glance

### Short Items Of Interest From Here and There

**I**T was provided in the International Wheat Agreement that the administrative sections of the agreement should come into force on July 1, 1949, providing ratifications were received from countries representing 70 per cent of the export quotas and 80 per cent of the import quotas. These quotas could only be realized if, on the import side, the United Kingdom ratified and if, on the export side, Canada and the United States ratified. These countries have now done so. The working provisions of the Agreement which provide for import and export quotas and minimum and maximum prices will come into effect not later than September 1, 1949 and will continue in force until July 31, 1953.

**T**HE Canadian crop of maple products was somewhat heavier this year than in 1948, but was still well below the 10-year average from 1938-47. The gross farm value of this year's crop was \$9,126,000 as compared with \$8,541,000 in 1948.

**I**N Mexico, as in Canada, mechanization is on the increase. It is estimated that there is approximately ten times as much mechanical equipment in use in Mexico now as there was before the war. A considerable amount of this machinery is coming from Canada. According to official Canadian statistics the 1948 exports of agricultural implements to Mexico from this country were valued at approximately \$1,200,000.

**H**OWARD P. WRIGHT, Calgary, was re-elected president of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association for the third year at the annual meeting recently held in Edmonton. Stanley Ingham, Balcarres, Saskatchewan, Arnold Burgess, Beaver Lodge, Alberta, and George G. Goldberg, Camrose, Alberta, were elected as "grower

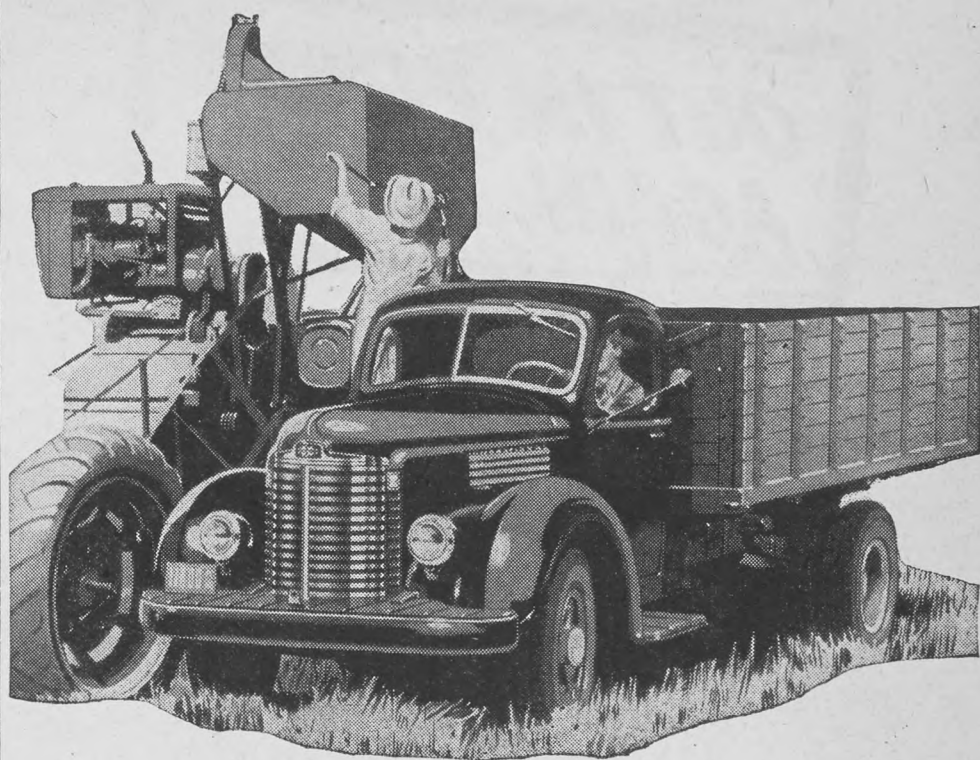
directors" for the first time. Seven other "grower directors" and nine directors nominated by the provincial Departments of Agriculture were elected to serve for the 1949-50 year.

**T**WO years ago the people of the town of Elmira, Ontario, decided they would clean the weeds out of the town, and sprayed generously with 2,4-D. They were so pleased with the results that this year they are doing a repeat job. Around the school the program has educational value. Spraying of the school grounds is being done by the class in agriculture, under the direction of their agriculture teacher.

**T**HE Road Research Laboratory of Britain's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is now producing asphalt in light colors—cream, yellow, red, green and blue. Previously colored asphalt was available only in dark colors. In a few years' time when you ask the way in Britain you may be told to "Turn right on the green road, left on the blue one, and straight ahead on the red!"

**T**HE war with Colorado beetles is still going on in Britain. All farmers within a two-mile radius of the main ports are spraying, and a watch is being kept on docksides and boats. The danger is that infestations on the Continent may spread to Britain in significant numbers. An official recently stated: "Though the beetles have been known to fly to Britain, the greatest danger is that they will arrive by boat. They are often found in cargoes of lettuce."

**T**HIS year Beatty Brothers are celebrating their seventy-fifth anniversary. At the time they started, farm sales were made by door-to-door canvassers, driving a team and democrat. The company now has five factories and 10,000 dealers in Canada.



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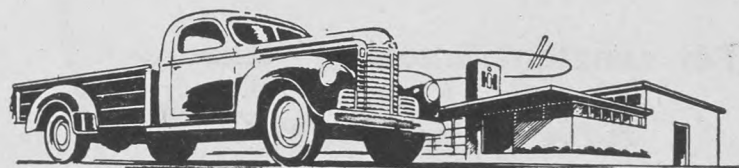
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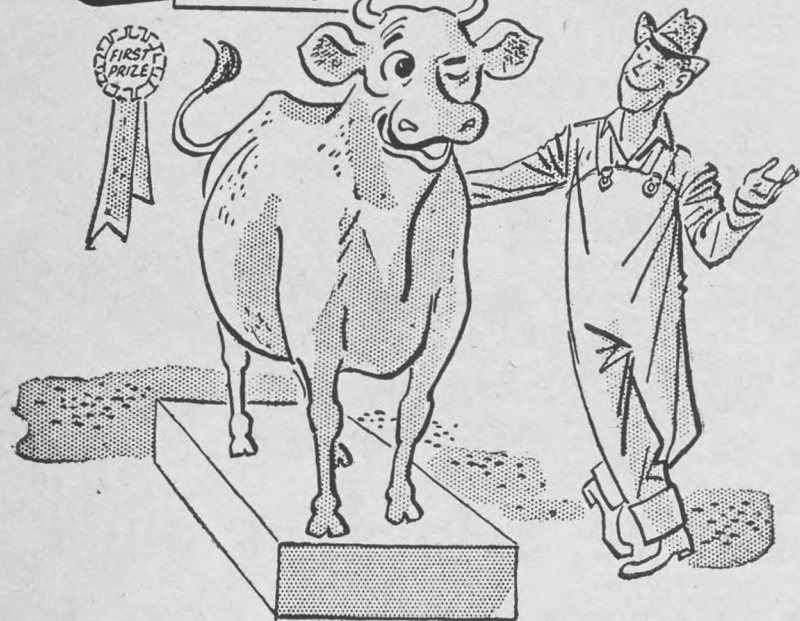
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## More Beef From Less Pasture

*Studies in Alberta have revealed some principles of good range management, and carrying capacities of pasture*

IN studies that were designed to reveal the carrying capacity of different range lands, it was found that a 1,000-pound cow required about 22 pounds of dry matter a day, for a total of about 660 pounds a month. This amount was sufficient for maintenance and supplied sufficient food to permit daily gains of about one and a half pounds in a growing beef animal.

It was found that average short-grass prairie produced 265 pounds of dry matter a month. Based on 55 per cent of the total yield (to allow a carryover of 45 per cent), an average of 4.7 acres per animal was required per month. In the case of mixed prairie only 2.8 acres were required, and on foothills type of mixed prairie 1.7 acres were, on the average, needed. A 1,000-pound cow grazing for six months on an average short-grass pasture would thus require 28.2 acres. This figure will vary with changes in the amount of rainfall.

In 1948 an experiment to determine carrying capacity was conducted at the Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries, Alberta. Thirty uniform yearling Hereford heifers were divided into three equal lots and grazed at the rates of 20, 30 and 40 acres per head respectively. At the beginning of the test, on April 21, the 10 heifers to be grazed on 20 acres each weighed an average of 439.0 pounds; the 10 to be grazed on 30 acres each averaged 442.8 pounds, and the 10 to be grazed on 40 acres each averaged 441.5 pounds. At the end of the summer the average gains for the three lots were 293.7 pounds, 313.9 pounds and 317.9 pounds, respectively. The test was conducted in a dry year, but it seems apparent that 20 acres per head was not enough, even for yearling heifers.

Overgrazing can be costly because of reduced gains. It can also seriously damage the range. It can take place without the operator being fully aware that harm is being done. The first indication of overgrazing may come when the pasture begins to present a weedy and run-down appearance. In general it evidences itself in a decline in vigor and a decrease in size of the more palatable species. The animals eat off the more palatable species of

grass, giving them no opportunity to set seed, whereas the less palatable species are left and are able to reproduce themselves. This results in the poorer species, often shrubby weeds, increasing in size and extent. After a long period of overgrazing there is likely to be serious wind and water erosion.

In areas where there is any temptation to overgraze, there is a good case for increasing the proportion of cultivated pastures. Those that produce feed in the early spring and late fall are particularly valuable. Crested wheat grass is ideal for this purpose in the drier areas of the Southwest, while other grasses show promise in moister areas.

## Cut The Cost Of Chores

A FARM management study in Alberta indicated that spending too much time on chores, not only cut down the cash receipts per man on each farm, but reduced the average labor earnings of the operator.

One group of 28 farms that required an average of less than nine-tenths hour for each pound of butterfat produced, had average cash receipts per man of \$1,587, and operator's labor income of \$1,201. Another group of 22 farms in the same territory where an average of one hour per pound of butterfat was spent on chores, had only \$1,290 cash receipts per man employed, and only \$920 average labor earnings per operator.

Though the difference in average time employed was only the difference between seven-tenths per hour per pound of butterfat and one hour per pound of butterfat, this difference, nevertheless, accumulated a substantial dollars and cents value at the end of the year.

## Milking Machine Care

THE rubber liners of milking machines are often damaged by milk solids that get into the pores of the liners during milking. These solids are difficult to remove. The fats cause the rubber to soften and swell out of shape and the other solids provide food in which bacteria multiply, out of reach of brushes, rinses and sterilizing solutions.

At the Central Experimental Farm,



Ottawa, the practice was adopted during the war of giving liners a periodic boiling in a two per cent lye solution. This served to remove fat from the liners and so restored their elasticity. More recently it has been the practice to provide two sets of liners for each milking unit. After the first set of liners have been used for a week they are boiled in a solution containing eight rounded teaspoonfuls of lye in a gallon of water, for a period of 10 to 15 minutes. Then they are rinsed well in clear water and stored in a clean, cool, dark place, and the second set used. At the end of a week this set is similarly treated, and the first set of liners go back into service. This serves to reduce the bacterial count in the milk, and at the same time extends the life of the liners.

It should be borne in mind that flake lye and strong lye solutions are poisonous, and must be kept out of the reach of children and domestic animals.

### Mixture For Pig Feeding

**T**HE best results from oat-barley mixtures for the feeding of hogs are gained if additions and corrections are made to these grains when preparing the ration. It is considered best to grind the grains, and to sift them for very young pigs. In the case of growing pigs additional protein in the form of tankage, skim milk, buttermilk or other supplement is required.

Pigs require more calcium than is present in barley or oats, so that the addition of a simple mineral mixture is advisable. This is particularly so in the case of inside feeding. If pigs are fed inside where they do not receive direct sunlight it will be found necessary to add a dessert spoonful of cod liver or pilchard oil to the ration daily, in order to provide vitamin D. Experience at the Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon, Manitoba, has indicated that the oil can be discontinued when the pigs reach a weight of 100 pounds.

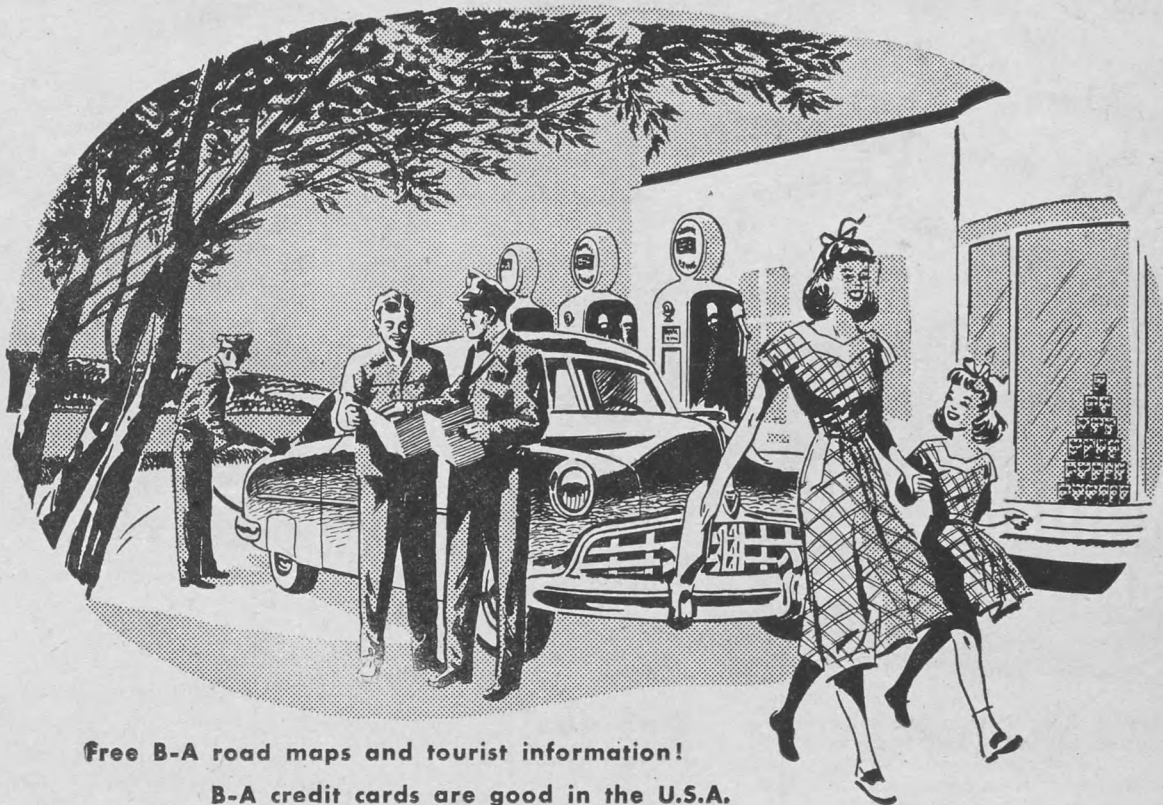
### Treating Fence Posts

**E**XPERIENCE at the Dominion Range Experiment Station, Manyberries, Alberta, has served to indicate that treating dry cedar or tamarack posts with hot coal tar will more than double the useful life of the posts. It is important that the posts be dry and well seasoned and the coal tar hot.

The procedure used has been to remove one end from a hot water tank and then suspend it from a tripod of old pipes above a fire pit. The tank is set at an angle of 45 degrees. An alternative method is to lean the tank against an empty 30-gallon drum, into which the posts can drip after being taken out of the tank.

The tank is filled two-thirds full of a 50-50 mixture of coal tar and water, and the mixture is heated until it foams violently. The butt ends of the posts are dipped into the hot mixture, all bark having been first removed. The tar should cover enough of the pole so that after the pole is set the tarred portion will extend at least six inches above the ground surface.

It should be noted that care is necessary when adding more tar or water to the hot mixture, as violent boiling will occur.



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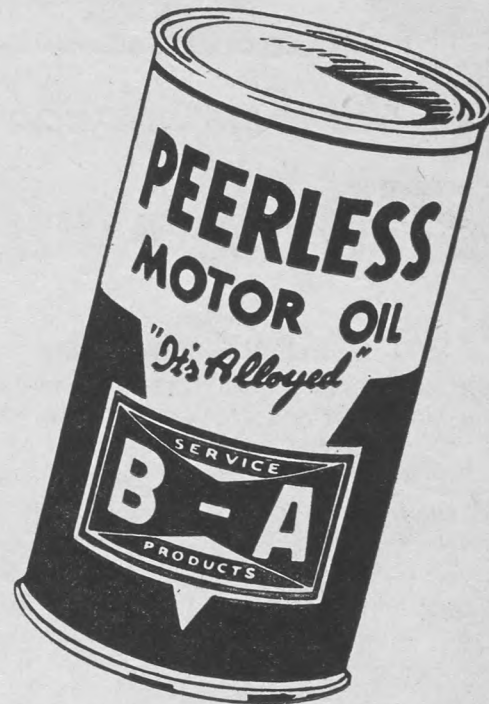


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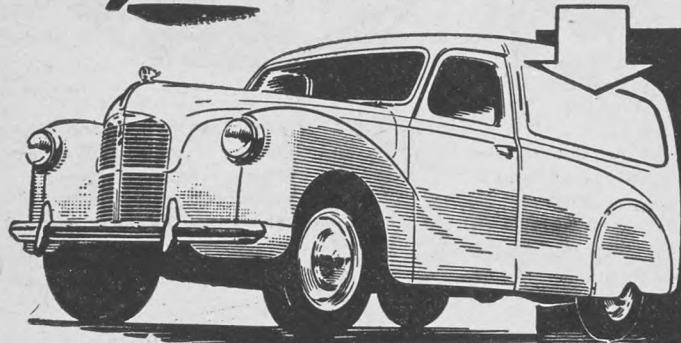


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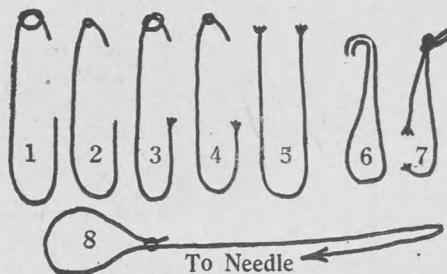
## FIELD



Soon only older farmers will recognize scenes like this one.

### Binder Troubles

THE knotter mechanism is the most delicate part of the binder. Adjustments should only be made after a careful study of the operating faults. Guess work will result in confusion and poorer work. The best way to analyze the trouble is to examine the twine. Its condition and location are a valuable clue to the fault. The sketches show twine bands which have not tied properly. The remedies given are likely to cure the troubles unless the knotter is completely worn out. Make only one adjustment at a time and make it gradually.



Twine bands like these are clues to binder troubles.

**Band 1**—Left clinging to the bill hooks with a loose knot in one end and the other end cut square and clean. The twine-disk spring is too loose and the tension at the can may be too tight. Adjust these springs to correct the trouble.

**Band 2**—Found with the bundle, the knot drawn tighter than in band 1, but otherwise the same. Tension is correct but the twine-disk spring is too loose; tighten it.

**Band 3**—Left on the bill hooks as was band 1, but the free end is frayed. Twine-disk spring and tension at the can are both too tight.

**Band 4**—Found with the bundle, the free end crushed and frayed. The twine-disk spring is too tight, tension is satisfactory.

**Band 5**—Is found with the bundle and has both ends crushed and frayed. The tension is perfect in this case but the disk spring is much too tight and should be loosened gradually.

**Band 6**—Found with the bundle. Both ends are crinkled showing that they have been around the bill hooks but the knot was not completed. The

bills are not holding the twine so may be worn or the bill-hook spring may be too loose. If tightening the spring does not remedy the troubles, put in new bills or deepen the groove with a rat-tail file.

**Band 7**—Left on the bills with the knot complete but the twine broken. The bill-hook spring may be too tight or the stripper arm cam is worn and prevents the knots from being stripped. Loosen the bill-hook spring and if not satisfactory, replace the stripper arm cam.

**Band 8**—Is found with a noose around the bundle and the end extending to the needle. The needle is not placing the twine in the holder disc. The roller in the needle may be replaced or a whole new needle installed.

### Small Irrigation Projects

**B**ETWEEN 1935 and March 31, 1948, a total of 36,036 small irrigation projects were constructed in the three prairie provinces under the P.F.R.A. water development program. Of these small projects 29,907 were dugouts, 4,993 were stock watering dams and 11,036 were irrigation projects.

Financial assistance to the extent of \$3,982,291 was made available by the government through P.F.R.A. for these projects, of which amount Saskatchewan farmers benefited to the extent of \$2,724,393, Manitoba farms by \$881,844 and Alberta farmers by \$676,053. It is expected that steady increases will be obtained in future years. During the war years and for a time thereafter, there was lack of proper equipment on many farms for doing such work and shortages also of dirt-moving equipment in rural municipalities. The P.F.R.A. will assist to the extent of four and one-half cents per cubic yard for earth removal and 25 cents per cubic yard for rock work, to a maximum of \$225 per dugout, \$150 for stock watering dams and \$350 for individual irrigation projects. During the last two or three years rising costs have increased the farmer's share of the cost of such projects considerably above what it was in the earlier years of the P.F.R.A. On small irrigation projects the farmer must undertake all costs for land



preparation and development, which generally amounts to more than the actual construction cost. Such small water projects, however, are of very great value in stabilizing the agricultural production in the drier areas.

Including the number built in 1948, more than 1,500 individual irrigation projects have been built by farmers and ranchers across the prairies. In the areas where they are most needed, water supply is often a limiting factor. Little or no water is available for irrigating grain crops, but feed production and increased garden crops can be insured, and in dry periods run-off water can be stored that would otherwise go to waste.

"Various types of small irrigation projects have been designed," says W. L. Jacobson, Dominion Experimental Station, Lethbridge, "to fit the wide range of conditions that exist over the prairies and to make use of any water supplies that may be developed. Water development of this kind, along with soil conservation, will help in establishing a permanent agriculture on the prairies."

#### Grass Legume Mixture

THERE are still many farmers in the north-eastern section of Saskatchewan who could use a grass legume mixture for hay to advantage, according to R. H. Anderson of the Dominion Experimental Station, Melfort. Mixtures of grass and legumes generally provide a better balanced feed, produce heavier yields, are easier to cure than a legume alone and maintain satisfactory yields for a longer period.

Brome grass and alfalfa have been used extensively over the area together and "with superior results." The rate of seeding recommended is two pounds of alfalfa and ten pounds of brome. The result is a good yield of high quality hay for a period of four or five years. This mixture has the advantage that it can be cut when the alfalfa is at the proper stage.

A mixture of eight pounds of crested wheatgrass and two pounds of alfalfa per acre have also provided a satisfactory hay mixture and crop rotation when left down for only two years. When seeding with a nurse crop Mr. Anderson reports that it has been easier to secure stands of crested wheatgrass than brome grass, and yields have been about equal.

Seven pounds of crested wheatgrass and two pounds of alfalfa per acre have also been found satisfactory on light, sandy soils where a heavy sod formation is needed. Yields, however, are lower than for brome and alfalfa.

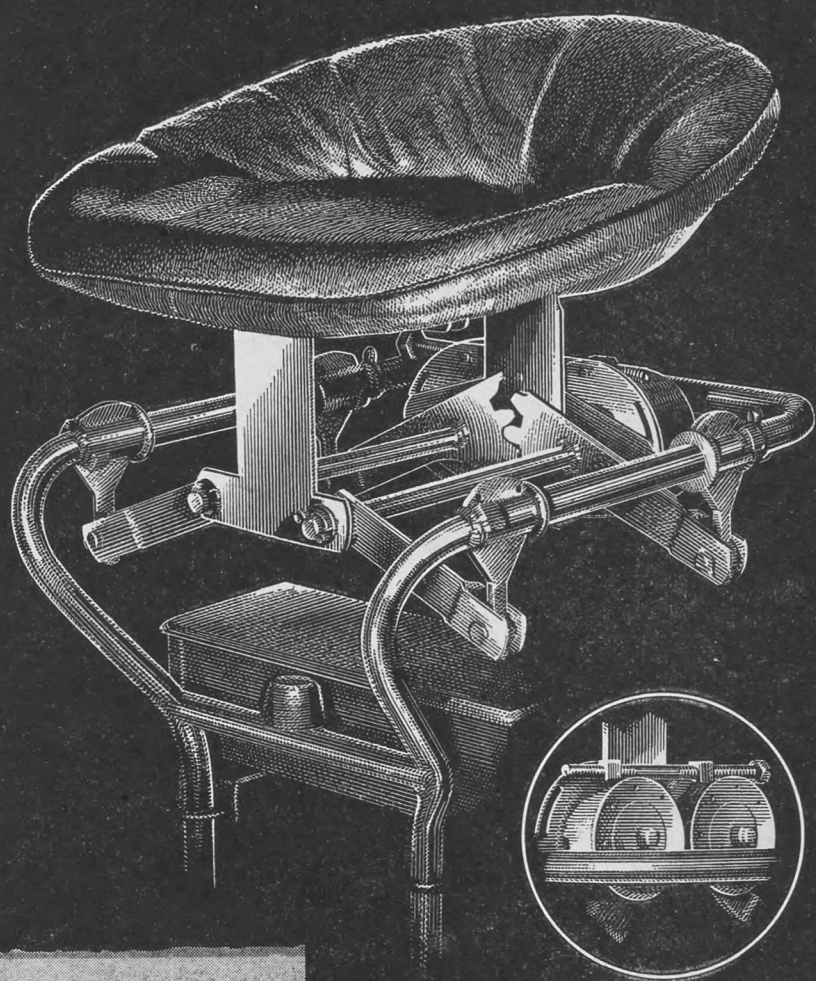
Of other crops Mr. Anderson says:

"On low-lying, somewhat peaty soil a mixture of alsike clover and brome grass has given an excellent yield, and has withstood flooding for 10 to 14 days. Where flooding extends beyond two weeks in the spring and during periods of heavy rain, a mixture of five pounds of brome and two pounds each of alfalfa and alsike clover, three pounds of red top and four pounds of Kentucky blue grass has proved a reliable mixture. The alfalfa and brome persist around the outer edges of the flooded areas and alsike red top and Kentucky blue survive the centre area, unless flooding continues for too long a period. For prolonged flooding periods Reed canary grass should be added to this mixture."

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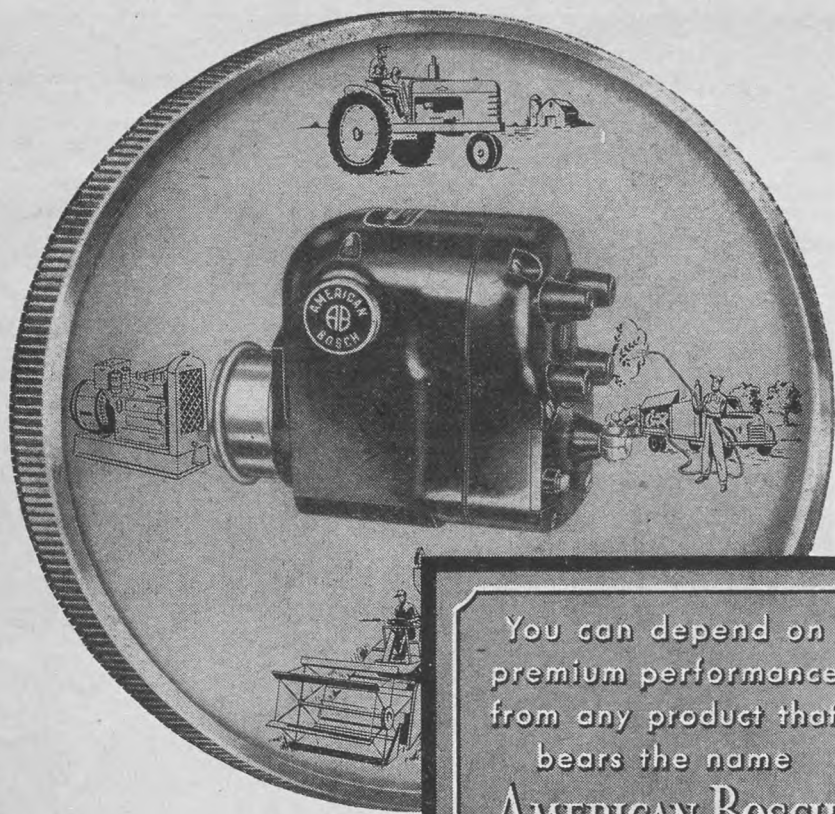
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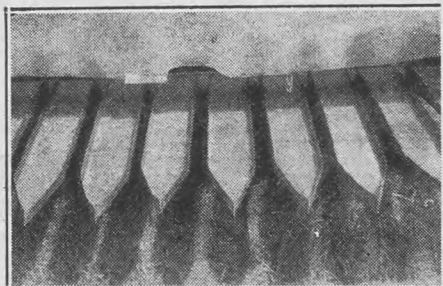


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## Harvesting Sunflowers

*Some mechanical aids to prevent loss in handling make their appearance on Manitoba farms*

THE rapid increase in sunflower production in western Canada since 1943 has led to a great deal of improvisation in adapting harvesting equipment. The seed must be left in the field until the moisture content has decreased to a point where it permits storage without danger of spoilage. When the seed has reached this moisture content of less than 12 per cent the heads shatter out easily.



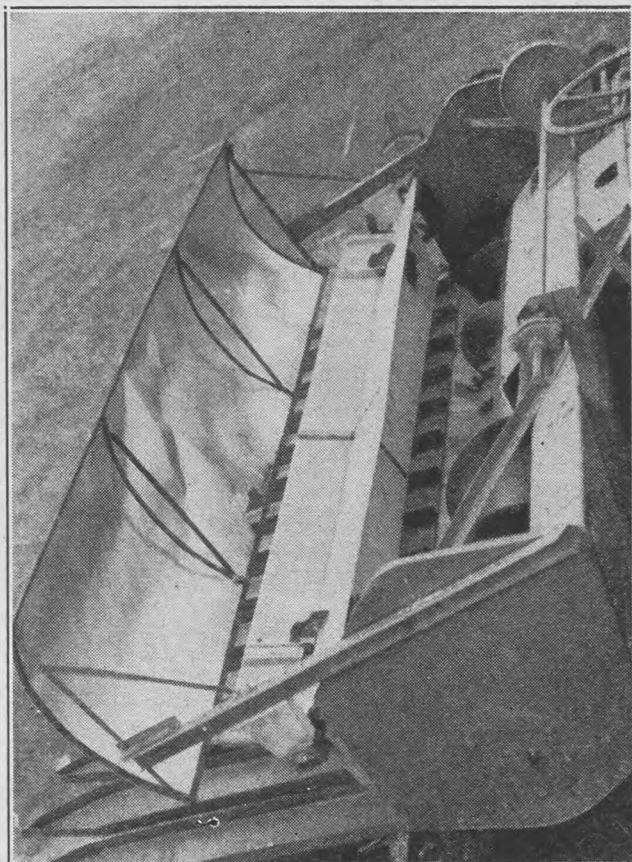
Pans are made of 16-gauge sheet iron and the shield of 28-gauge.

Combines have been used as standard equipment for harvesting the sunflower crop. Those machines with rub-bar cylinders are more popular since they cause less damage to the seed and do not break up the heads as badly as do the spiked cylinders. The concaves should be run wide open or nearly so. Cylinder speed should be reduced to about half of that used for threshing cereal grains. In this manner the separating and cleaning mechanism will not be overloaded and a better recovery job may be done. The centre of the head will often contain blind or empty seeds. Before an attempt is made to get all seeds out of each head, those which are not being knocked out should be examined to see if they are of value.

If the conventional type reel and table are used they should be modified. Heads will frequently hook over the slats and be thrown away from the machine. This can be stopped by filling in the reel with light boards, hardware cloth or wire mesh. The reel-shaft must be raised and will therefore require extensions to permit it to

keep the cutter bar cleaned off. An extension of eight to 12 inches set at an angle of 30 degrees with the reel arm in the direction of rotation has been found to be most effective.

Experimental work done during the 1948 season produced some special attachments which are likely to be in general use this year. Reel arms 12 inches long are mounted on a shaft which is positioned 15 inches above and six inches in front of the sickle. A large, light-gauge metal shield is set in front of the small reel to direct the heads down to the knife. The bottom of the shield is set 18 inches in front of and eight inches above the sickle. Long, pointed metal pans one inch deep are mounted on the cutter bar above the conventional guards. They are being made about 4½ feet long and 15 inches wide. The pans tend to strip off the heads and pick up any seeds which shatter out. As the head is guided back between the shield and the pans, the neck of the stalk is cut by the sickle and the short reel knocks the head into the feeder. This arrangement seems to have solved the problem of harvesting sunflower crops. The machine illustrated was adapted to this use by A. A. Kroeker and Sons of Winkler, Manitoba. Many other machines are being converted in local blacksmith and machine shops. —R. G. M.



The combine of A. A. Kroeker and Sons, Winkler, Manitoba, using a successful set of sunflower attachments.

## Starch From Wheat

A PROCESS has been developed at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, Illinois, for making starch from whole wheat kernels. Wheat starch can be converted to syrups and sugar by the same method used for the conversion of cornstarch. Starch of excellent quality can be extracted from sound wheat, and good starch can even be obtained from damaged wheat that is otherwise unsuitable for food or feed.

A 60-pound bushel of soft, winter wheat containing 60 per cent starch yields 33 pounds of commercial starch with a 12 per cent moisture content. Approximately 22 pounds of commercial feed containing 12 per cent moisture is also produced. It is believed that wheat starch could, in normal times, be economically produced. This is particularly so in areas, such as the United States Pacific Northwest, where soft, white wheat is available at relatively low prices.



## Aphids Attack Manitoba Crops

*A set of climate and crop conditions appeared in Manitoba this summer that were ideal for the rapid propagation of aphids, resulting in crop damages estimated at one to one-and-a-half million dollars*

FARMERS in western Canada are used to losing crops in a considerable variety of ways. Drought is usually with us, grasshoppers are by no means unknown, and the chance of hail is always there. When it comes to losing a crop to that little green insect known as the aphid it is something that is not usually considered to be one of the fair hazards of the farming game. Yet in Manitoba this year it is estimated that 275,000 acres of field crops were attacked and damage amounting to somewhere between one and one-and-a-half million dollars resulted.

The attack appeared to centre in the area around Turtle Mountain in southern Manitoba, and spread out from there. "The aphid infestation that centred around Turtle Mountain," said H. E. Wood, Director, Weeds Branch, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, "was quite similar in effect to throwing a stone into a pool of water. Turtle Mountain is the mid-point, and the waves of aphid infestation spread out and became steadily less intense in all directions. Partly because of this, and partly because the crops were rather more advanced, the damage done was less pronounced in the outer fringes of the area. Also, natural enemies, particularly the lady beetle, became more numerous and so reduced aphid depredations."

CONTROL of the pest presented a very considerable problem. They are a sucking insect so the ordinary stomach poisons proved to be quite ineffective. Parathion was used in some instances, but it was not readily available, and added to this in frequent cases a very large amount of damage had been done in a field before the owner discovered that the aphids had attacked.

In Canada co-operative efforts were made by the Dominion, Provincial and municipal governments, as well as several chemical companies to determine best methods of chemical control. Trials were made with a number of chemicals, and it was established that Parathion did give promising kills at a cost of around one dollar per acre. Unfortunately this chemical is rather hazardous to handle, with the result that the Dominion Government gave authority to use it only as a spray under supervision.

Steps were taken by interested companies to get municipal councils to order supplies. Their efforts were attended with indifferent success. Some of the poison was moved into the affected areas. In the meantime the aphid infestations appeared to be on the decline. Shortly after, the middle of July, only a couple of weeks after the first reports had begun to come in, only a few scattered infestations remained, chiefly in the Red River Valley. The reasons for the disappearance would appear to be, in the first place, that the life cycle is only two or three weeks. Added to this the weather had become less humid, natural parasites had made serious inroads, and grain was passing from the succulent stage.

It may well be that a poison that will do mass poisoning of aphids will not be needed for a considerable time. Many people are wondering whether they should not make preparations for a possible outbreak next year. Mr. Wood does not consider a serious outbreak next year to be very likely. It is possible, of course, but it is really no more likely that they will reappear next year than it was that they would appear any year in the past.

THE appearance of aphids in large numbers seems to depend on a set of climatic-crop conditions that in all likelihood we will not see repeated for some time. Aphids are usually a pest in greenhouses, where it is warm, and humidity is very high, and moisture plentiful. Added to that greenhouse plants are succulent. The situation in the Turtle Mountain area more or less fulfilled all of these requirements. Last winter there were heavy snows and spring thaws left water in the pot-holes. This was followed by heavy spring rains. The weather remained cool until mid-June, and there was very little evaporation. This was followed by an almost overnight change in temperature. The temperature rose a matter of 25 degrees and for about five weeks was unseasonably warm. Also in the area attacked there happened to be a lot of June seeded crops that were still succulent. Conditions were perfect for an aphid attack. Last fall the female aphids had, as usual, laid eggs which over-wintered, and these hatched quite early this spring. This hatch produced generation after generation of wingless, living females. The numbers of insects can, under ideal conditions, multiply itself very rapidly, and that is just what happened this spring.

IT should not be thought that the infestation started from nothing. In the summers of 1947 and 1948 Dr. R. D. Bird, officer-in-charge, Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Brandon, Manitoba, found considerable numbers of aphids in southern Manitoba. They laid the eggs that started this year's infestation. Furthermore aphids became a serious problem over much of the Great Plains area in the United States in June of this year and it is probable that some winged aphids drifted in from the south to augment the numbers already here. With a normal infestation and unusually favorable circumstances they soon multiplied and became a menace to field crops.

The outlook for next year is always the important thing. It is reasonable to suppose that in the infested areas more eggs will be laid this fall than last. On the other hand the rapid propagation of the insects depends on a set of weather and crop circumstances. If these conditions should be repeated next year it may well be that serious infestations would again appear. The probability of this repetition is remote, and it appears that the fact that there was a heavy infestation this year should cause no great concern for aphid attacks on next year's crop throughout the west.

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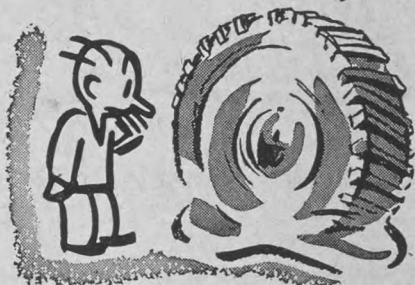
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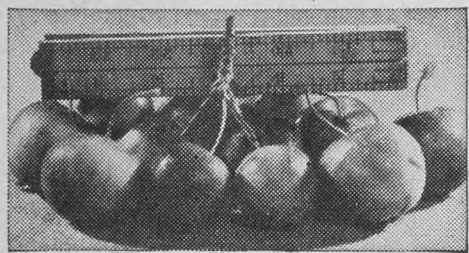


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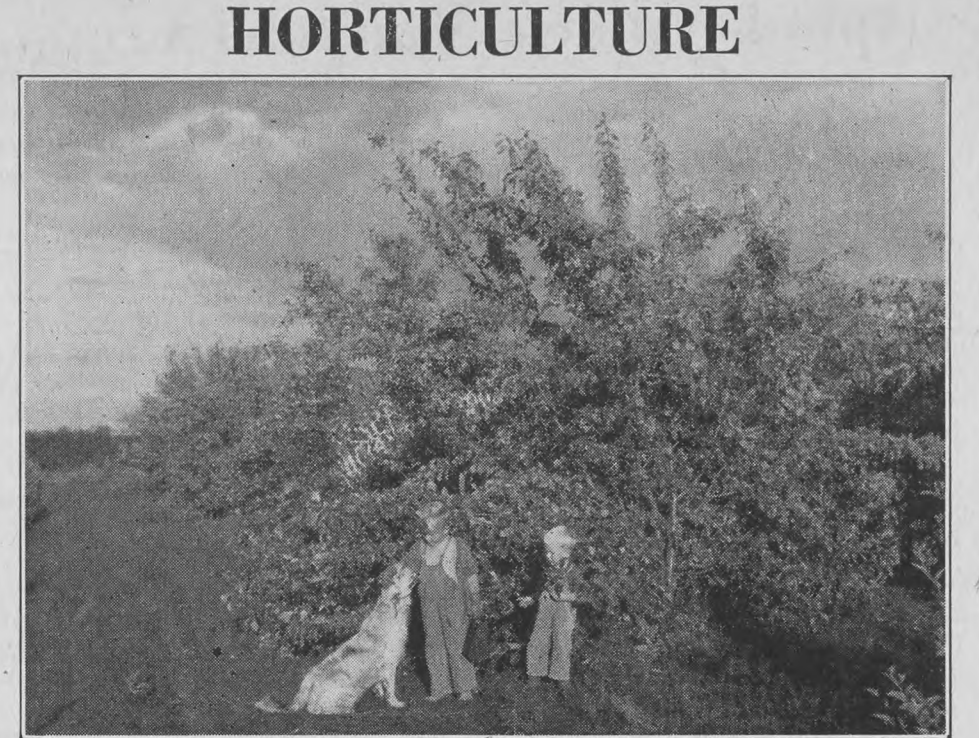
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Children, a dog and fruit trees are an ideal combination on any farm.

**Strawberry Virus Diseases**  
If your strawberry plants show varying degrees of dwarfing and do not run as they should, they are probably affected with some form of virus disease. A. W. S. Hunter, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, says that most strawberry varieties grown in Canada infected with a virus, do not exhibit the yellow mottling or marginal yellowing most commonly associated with virus infection.

Many stocks of strawberries in Canada are infected with virus, which diseases are usually spread by sucking insects, so that infection can take place over long distances. These viruses are also carried in the plant sap, and once the plant is infected anywhere, all runners connected to it are likely to become infected quickly. The roguing of diseased plants therefore involves removing the entire plant.

Aside from roguing out the diseased plants the growers cannot do very much except to select the most vigorous plants obtainable of the desired variety, and once planted, inspect them regularly so that all plants that do not look right or lack vigor can be removed promptly. "No plant should be given the benefit of the doubt," says Mr. Hunter. "Everything but the very best must be discarded. This may mean the retention of only a small portion of the plants the first year, but if these superior ones are used as foundation stock, the general level should be much higher in subsequent years and the proportion of poor-vigor plants proportionately less."

**Spruce Sunscald**  
THE Dominion Experimental Station at Swift Current says that a large number of spruce trees in southwestern Saskatchewan show signs of moderate to severe sunscald after the plants winter. The needles, particularly on the southwest side, are brown and eventually fall. "The cause of this condition," we are told, "is to be found largely in the extreme shortage of soil moisture during the late fall and early winter." Repeated freezing and thawing during late winter will also contribute to this damage.

Where not too severely damaged, spruce trees can and do recover, but it may take several years for complete recovery. Even severely damaged

spruce will eventually produce new growth. Artificial watering, where the soil is dry, will help. The station recommends that the main method of guarding against this type of sunscald is to provide plenty of water during the few weeks prior to the onset of winter.

**Winter Injury May Result**  
DR. C. F. PATTERSON, University of Saskatchewan, has pointed out that conditions such as a dry summer which tends to induce early maturity, if followed by prolonged and wet weather in September, are likely to result in havoc to plants during the winter. Buds that normally remain dormant until spring are likely to become active and even produce some shoots, as a result of which the plant will lose some of the natural readiness for winter that it has gained. The time remaining for winter preparation will be too brief to permit normal hardening of the plant tissues. As a result serious injury may occur where little or none occurs normally.

When trees grow too late in the summer as a result of too much available nitrogen at this season and early in the fall, winter injury from low temperatures tends to increase, according to Dr. Patterson. "Plants growing under such conditions are likely to continue their growth late in the season and the hardening of the tissues that normally takes place is not accomplished. The result is that the plant goes into winter unprepared and an abnormal amount of injury occurs."

Of possible special interest this year he offers this further comment: "While much of the winter injury to trees and shrubs is doubtless from cold, some of this is drought injury. Such plants give off moisture during the winter months and must take moisture from the soil to places that lose it. If the soil has the necessary supply of moisture during the winter months, replacement of that given off by the plants should occur. If, on the other hand, the moisture content at that season is low, the plant may not be able to obtain through its roots sufficient water to balance the amount lost to the atmosphere, and the drying out of the branches will result. This drying out results in a form of killing which is not easily distinguished from that resulting from low temperatures."

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# New Beef Breed

Continued from page 7

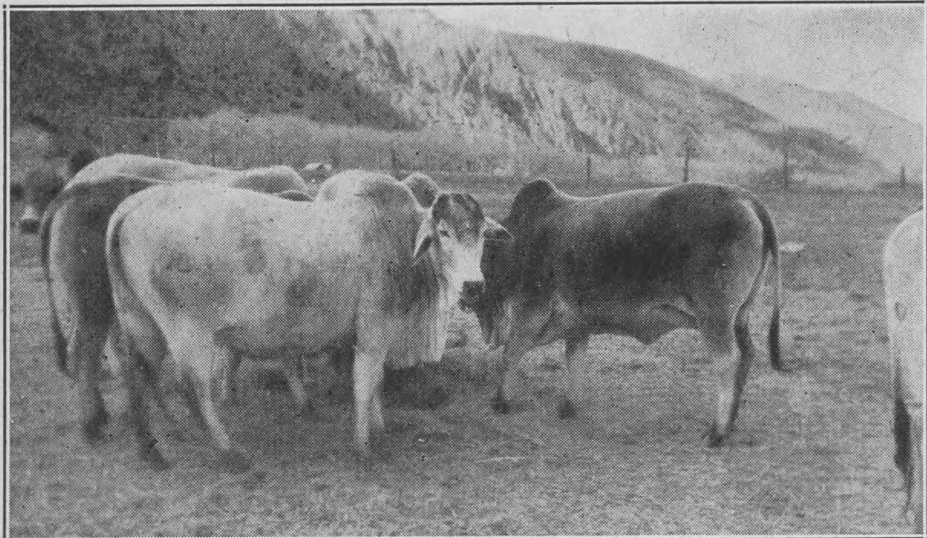
toward the rancher's proposition. There will be some reluctance to tackle a new program of this magnitude at this turn of the business cycle. It may be argued that the immeasurably wealthier American government has not tackled it, but left it to the enterprise of private breeders. It may be said that the ranchers are still hankering after heavier cattle which the trade has long discounted. For the rancher in this year of grace 1949 thinks no better of baby beef than he did when the term was first invented. He doesn't like to be reminded that a good five-pound roast of beef costs the average working man half a day's pay, and for that reason butcher shop roasts have been reduced to three pounds four ounces, on the average, as shown by a recent spot check in Winnipeg conducted by The Country Guide.

THE department will also have to listen to large numbers of pure-bred breeders who are bound to scoff at the idea of a new breed. There will be general agreement to the proposition that we have too many breeds at

present; that an additional breed multiplies the number of nondescripts in the country; that bacon hog improvement got nowhere until the country cleared the decks and got down to one breed.

On the other hand, American technical pre-eminence in the world has its roots in experimentation and the willingness to re-test the validity of established ideas. The Americans are two decades ahead of us in evaluating Brahma blood. If the notion that a breed specially developed to meet North American range conditions has any merit, can Canada afford to overlook it? To ask the question is to answer it. No living person can say with finality whether Brahma crosses can work an improvement on our beef stock, but no question was ever settled by doing nothing. The question becomes, "shall Canadians depend on American enterprise with the prospect of buying breeding stock from that country at a later date, or shall we on this side conduct parallel breeding operations as we did in the development of rust-proof wheat?"

There are some ears straining for an answer in Alberta. Now that the election is over it should not be long before there is a reply.



Brahma cows in Colorado mountain country at 6,000 feet elevation with occasional 28 below zero temperature and much snow.

# Britain's Plight

Continued from page 6

would lead to more uniformity in treatment of shippers and eliminate discrimination that has occasionally resulted from the latitude given the roads to permit percentage reductions in special instances.

In their representations to the railroad commission farmers found that their interests lay pretty well alongside those of other industries and business. The same applies to marketing legislation, according to Dean F. M. Clement, University of British Columbia, who was one of the speakers before the Agricultural Institute of Canada during its sessions in Vancouver.

Marketing legislation, said Dean Clement, tends to make the law of supply and demand work for the farmer as it now works for the manufacturer, and he thinks that government's role in marketing will expand. "Price-making forces of supply and demand are always at work for all goods offered," he added, "but it does not work for perishable or semi-perishable farm food products in the same way as it works for other commodities."

Another speaker at this conference whose views aroused interest was H. H. Hannam, newly-elected president of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, who expressed doubt as to the ability of the Dominion Farm Support program to gain its objectives.

"We are beginning to wonder whether this program will maintain farmers' income on the level of other industries," said Mr. Hannam. "We find that it is just a stop-loss measure. We have not in our present legislation attempted to hold agricultural prices up on a balanced level with other prices. There should be a minimum stabilizing measure, not only for the benefit of the farmer, but for the benefit of society as a whole."

Grand Forks is a British Columbia region becoming famous for its seed potatoes. In less than a decade, the crop has increased more than 30 times. A seed testing plot has been established this year to insure high quality of the pack.

Expectations are for an apple crop this season somewhat larger than in 1948. The official estimate, which may be trimmed slightly as the season advances, is 7,566,505 boxes. Vancouver Island is the only region where a decline is anticipated.

AUGUST 1949

CHILLY RAIN

Take an umbrella along!

SEPTEMBER 1949

COOL WINDS

Wear a topcoat!

OCTOBER 1949

FROST TONIGHT

Cover plant beds

NOVEMBER 1949

COLD WAVE COMING

Put on storm windows!

DECEMBER 1949

SNOW TODAY

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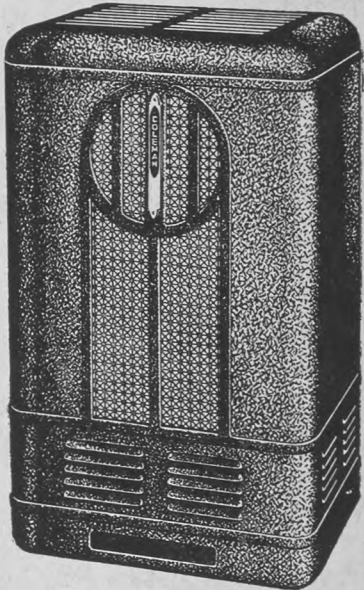
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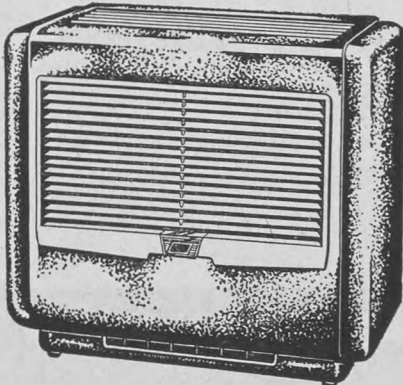
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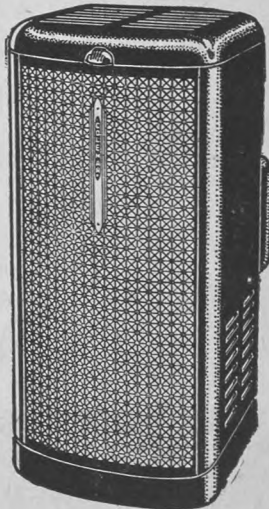
Have Your Coleman Dealer  
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Master Circulator Model



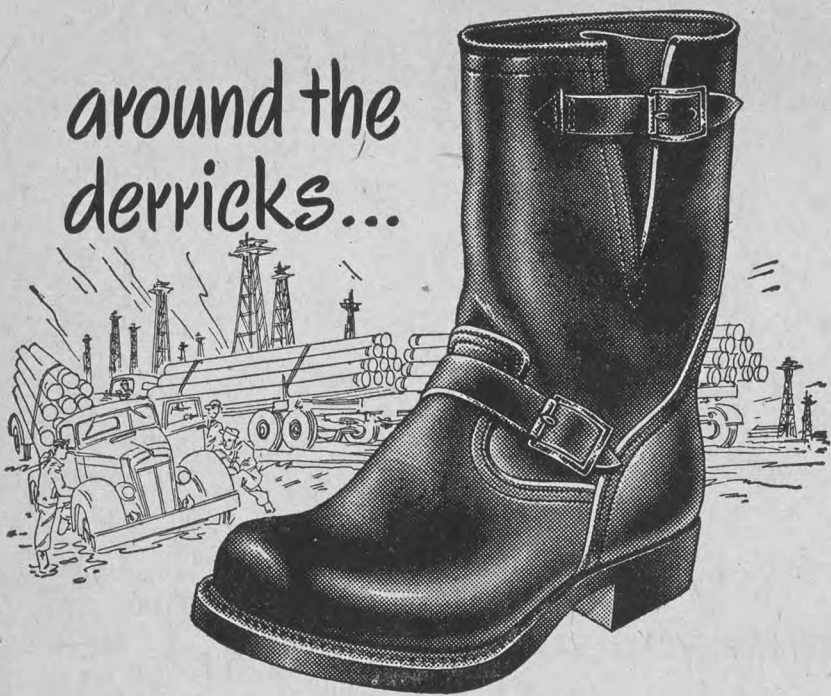
Console Model



Radiant Circulator Model



around the  
derricks...



...along the highways

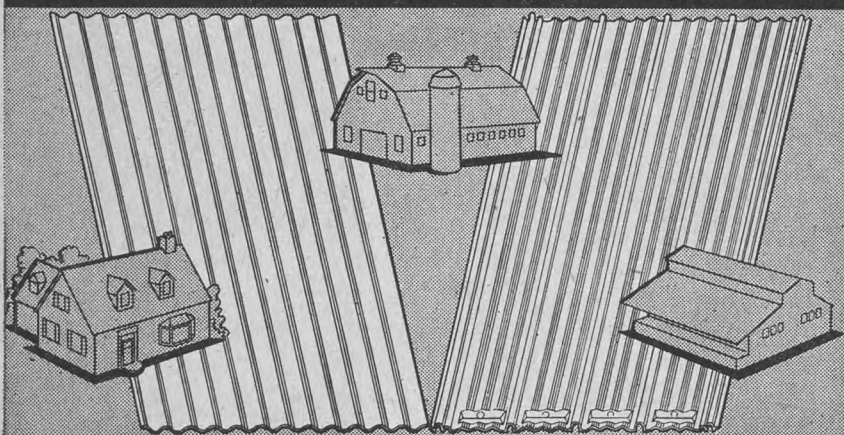
Westerners are wise to the "Engineer"—a husky, 10-inch Leckie work boot without lacing. It's cut from the finest oil-tan leather—fitted with adjustable straps on uppers and instep. For solid comfort—for rugged wear on the toughest job—ask your shoe dealer for the Leckie's "Engineer."

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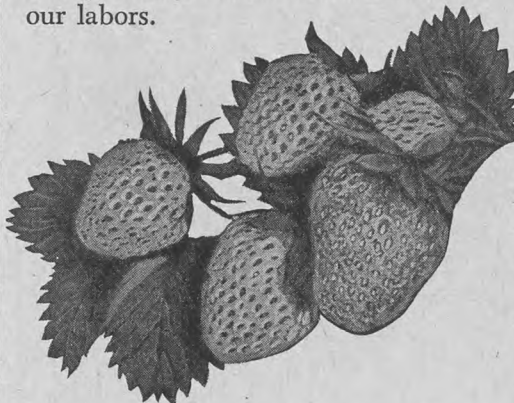
## "Berries -- for the Birds"

*The writer would be pleased to hear from anyone who has developed a species of strawberry that grows with a shell, something like a hazel nut*

by CHRISTINE A. McLEAN

I HAVE always had a great affection for birds; any kind of birds; particularly robins. In fact I loved birds so much that I spent all last winter raising love birds, with considerable success. However, recently I have had cause to change my mind about the little feathered songsters. Whereas I used to look with longing for the robins to appear and begin busily nesting in the surrounding trees, now I watch them with a somewhat jaundiced eye.

It all began with a trip to the Pacific coast and genuine admiration of the beautiful strawberry plants out there. Knowing we could grow strawberries on the prairies I came home fired with ambition to raise them. I had visions of supplying my family with strawberry shortcakes, pies and crushed strawberries drizzled over ice cream, without paying the prohibitive prices for the few meagre berries which come into the stores. We obtained some fine healthy-looking plants, set them out, and gaily they began to put forth blossoms. We tended them with loving care, protected them from sun and drought, and patiently waited for the fruits of our labors.



But I found the robin to be a hard, uncompromising bird. Early the prospective father looked over our patch, warbled with glee, and brought his wife over to inspect it. Apparently she was equally satisfied, and they set up housekeeping in an unobtrusive manner in a nearby tree. Then some of their relatives arrived from the south, liked the district, and also moved in. The sparrows and jenny wrens found homes in nearby pipes and eaves and it became a jolly little community.

At last our berries became large and green with a tinge of red on one side. Then the robins went into action. They paraded around and flew over them, pushed the leaves aside so that the sun could get at them. They brought down their whole family and pointed out the desirability of fresh strawberries, educating them thoroughly into the need of vitamins in the system.

The young birds were anything but slow at catching on. They deserted their substantial diet of fish worms and lettuce, and one could literally see them drooling for fresh strawberries. But I can drool too, and I watched that patch for the first dishful I might gather.

At last three berries began to ripen. I went out and admired them; their bright sparkling color intrigued me; I told the family we should have at least one each. We all tried to de-

cide how to eat our berry. Whether to dunk it in cream, eat it as is, or lay it on a piece of cake with whipped cream on top! One squish and it would be over for the time being. Keeping guard from my kitchen window as I washed dishes, I dashed out and threw gravel viciously at the sparrows and reprimanded the jenny wrens every time they sat on the fence and cocked a bright eye in the direction of the berry patch.

But the robins are bold and resourceful. They also get up much earlier in the morning than I do. Three or four o'clock means nothing to them while I don't come on duty until six-thirty. So I woke with a start and heard the delighted chirpings of the robin family. Wildly I dashed out, but the last vestige of red strawberry was sliding down the speckled throat of the newest baby. Since then it is catch as catch can. I grab one and the robins get two. They watch me and I watch them. I am fast losing all love and respect for robins in general. After all, they have wings and can roam off down south and get bigger and better berries, while we are grounded in Manitoba.

All the birds within a radius of several blocks congregate in our yard. They hold their elections, settle family squabbles and do their courting. The robins are now on their second or third family, raising strong, healthy youngsters all with an extreme fondness for strawberries. To anyone who likes birds (and not strawberries) I can recommend nothing better than a few plants in the backyard. A bird-bath and ordinary breadcrumbs or suet is not to be compared with it for attraction.

My poor little lovebirds sit in their cages and produce gorgeous-colored offspring, but I don't feed them on strawberries. I am thinking of moving them out to the patch to get their share. I think the "Fuss Budgets" and "Mrs. Dumpington Urp" would be more than a match for the robins and save me a lot of trouble.

My husband becomes almost violent at times. I try to warn him about the dangers of apoplexy and the need to control one's emotions as one gets older. I can only be thankful that they do not attack his tomatoes or I should really have to depart to the lake for the summer. At times he looks speculatively at the shotgun and goes about muttering to himself, but we don't want to arouse the ire of the local constabulary. Besides, the crown prosecutor lives next door!

In the meantime I search the stores for a mangy little basket of berries, looking carefully for mouldy ones near the bottom.



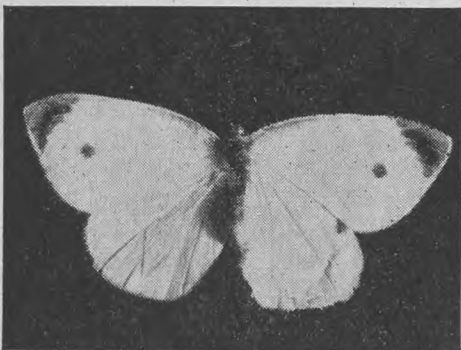


## "Cabbage" Butterfly

*A familiar garden scourge*

ALTHOUGH most butterflies are beautiful insects with lovely, gauzy wings to delight the eye of the beauty lover, there is one species of butterfly that holds no charm for the gardener. This is the familiar "Cabbage" butterfly, which is most often seen in vegetable gardens hovering over the cabbage plants. On hot summer mornings, one will often see these insects by the dozens, most of them white in hue, but with an occasional individual of brilliant yellow. They fly and flit around the cabbage plants as though paying homage to some monarch or deity; but they are in reality only looking for a place to lay eggs.

It is an odd fact that among the insects, most species have some certain plant or group of plants upon which they feed exclusively. It is also a fact that some insects do their eat-



The "Cabbage" Butterfly.

ing only when they are "babies," or in the caterpillar stage, and when they become "grown up" into adult insects, they do not eat at all, consequently live only for a few days.

The cabbage butterfly is such an insect. The adult butterflies we see flying around the cabbages are not seeking to eat the leaves. Oh, no—their eating days are over! They are merely seeking out suitable leaves upon which to lay their very tiny green eggs, which in a few days under the rays of the sun will hatch out into little green caterpillars with ravenous appetites. It is these caterpillars which eat the holes in our cabbage leaves, and their appetites are so voracious that they never cease eating, nibbling away at the leaves night and day. From a very tiny caterpillar, only a small fraction of an inch long, they soon grow to their full size, an inch or more in length.

When this stage is reached, they stop eating cabbage leaves, or anything else. Their skin stiffens and changes color, finally splits and from inside the chrysalis emerges. This has little resemblance to the caterpillar, and has lost the power of motion. While this stage lasts for several days, inside the chrysalis a great change is taking place. The organs break down into a semi-liquid state; and new organs begin to form from the old broken-down elements. Within a few more days, these have formed, and the chrysalis breaks open, and the full grown adult butterfly emerges.

The standard treatment for combating this insect is pyrethrum spray made from one ounce of fresh pyrethrum and one gallon of water. It is a contact spray and must be applied to hit the bodies of the insects. Treatment begins when the worms make their first appearance in the spring. This poison does not affect humans.

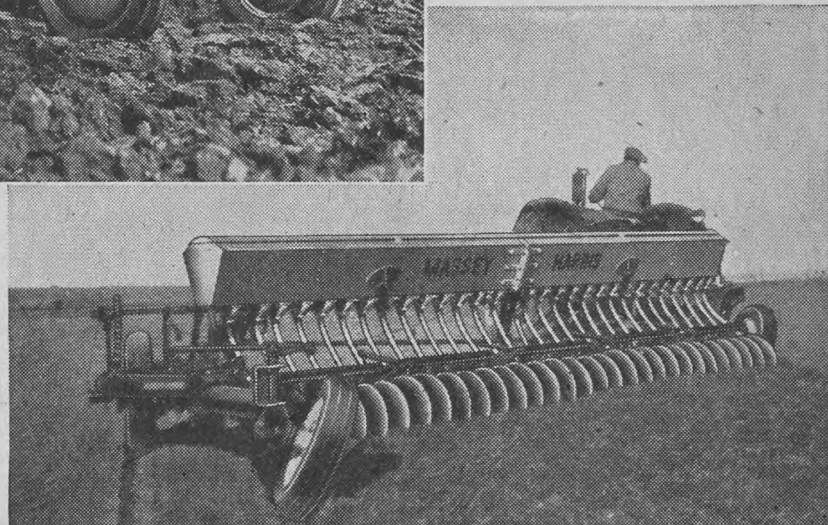
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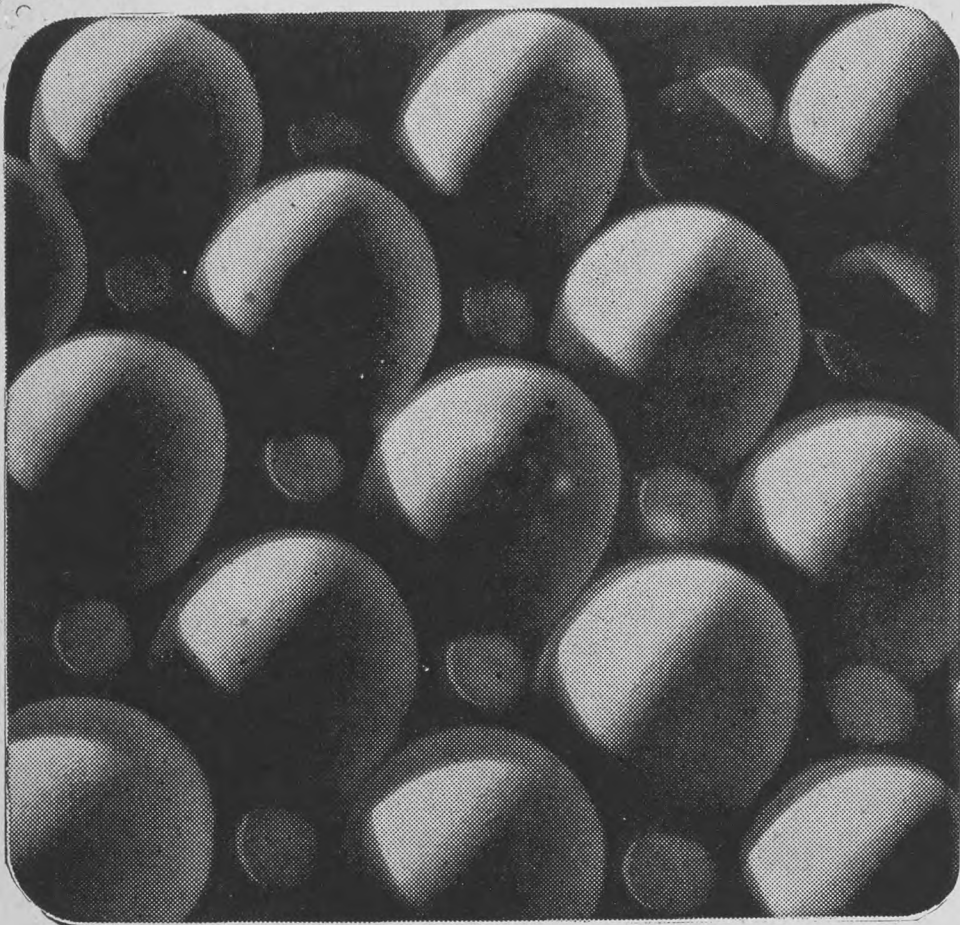
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The result of feeding "Miracle" Laying Mash will be more eggs and better eggs . . . eggs whose high and uniform quality will rate a better market price. Follow the lead of Canada's most successful poultrymen. For extra egg profits, feed good hens "Miracle" Laying Mash.

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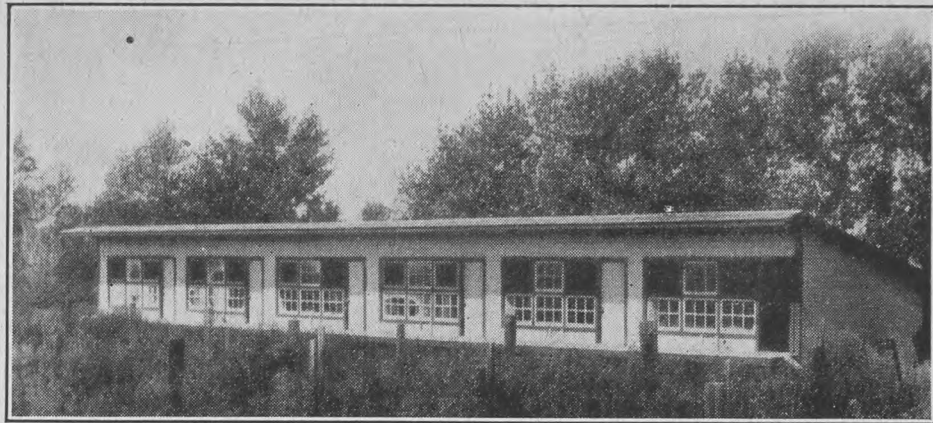
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OF 29

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## POULTRY



*Satisfactory housing is important in all livestock production.*

### Clean The Poultry House

**A**N opportune time to clean the poultry house is just before harvesting operations commence. A thorough cleaning means the removal of all portable equipment outside. There it can be scraped and cleaned. Sunshine is one of our best disinfectants. If the roosts are of the movable type, they should be given a coat of creosote before being returned to the house.

Remove all the old litter and nesting material from the house. Brush down the walls and scrape the floor. A coat of a casein paint or whitewash will brighten the walls and make it a more pleasant place in which to work this winter. If it is possible allow about two weeks from the time the hens are moved out of the house until the pullets are moved in. Such a plan allows for any unforeseen delays and overcomes the possibility of moving pullets into a partially cleaned house.

If you plan on using deep litter this fall and winter, be sure you commence before the cold weather sets in. Many pullets should start to lay in August or early September. As soon as a few are in production, move them all into the house, which should have about four to five inches of clean straw on the floor.

### Better Layers

**T**HE policy of selecting high-yielding hens by trap nest records, and crossing them with males bred from high-producing hens is losing favor, because of its limitations. It does not seem capable of bringing about any improvement beyond the 180 to 200 egg level, according to a report heard at the Poultry Congress in Denmark.

This means that the assumption that the ability to lay a lot of eggs was passed from the hen to her male offspring, who, in turn, passed it on to their daughters, has not stood the test. Added to that, this method of selection is least likely to effect improvement unless the male has been proven by his progeny to be capable of siring good layers. The principles of avoiding a close relationship between males and females must be reconsidered and modified.

If breeding is from a high individual producer there is also the possibility that she may not be truly representative of the family from which she came, and may be no more capable of transmitting factors for high production than her poor producing sisters and cousins. Greater emphasis is being placed on family, as opposed to individual records.

Investigations in poultry genetics now include inbreeding, crossing inbred lines, top crossing, closed flock

breeding and line breeding within the strain, progeny testing, brother and sister testing and similar methods, and hope is held out that some of these techniques will have special merit.

### Radiant Heat For Brooding

**A** NEW method of heating the brooder house is being tested. It consists of hot water pipes or electric heating elements in the concrete floor, which produce radiant heat. Excellent results from radiant heating are reported by Leonard Griesbach, Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

When radiant heating is used chicks do best if started with a floor temperature of 100 to 102 degrees Fahrenheit, tested with the bulb of the thermometer actually touching the floor. The air temperature half an inch above the floor is then approximately 92 degrees, and slightly lower at higher levels. The air temperature varies according to the amount of ventilation provided; the action of the chicks is often the best indication of the proper temperature, though the temperatures given are a reliable guide.

When floor radiant heating is used no litter is required. The droppings quickly dry and may be allowed to accumulate to provide some slight insulation from the floor heat as the chicks grow older. If overcrowding is avoided and ventilation is adequate the droppings remain powdery.

### Estrogen For Fattening

**E**STROGEN has received publicity in recent years as a fattening agent for market poultry. Actually in older birds it does not have this effect, because such birds already possess the natural ability to accumulate fat, and so proper management is more effective than any treatment. In broilers and fryers estrogen does promote the deposition of abdominal fat, but, unfortunately, it does not significantly affect the skin fat which determines market grading.

Estrogen does have two effects that are distinctly beneficial, says S. Bird, Poultry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. In the first place it causes a thickening of the skin which imparts what is known as "brightness" to the carcass. In the second place estrogen treatment will, for four weeks, cause a steadily increasing growth impetus over non-treated birds. Beyond this length of time the effect of continued treatment wears off.

Until estrogen can again be sold it will be hard to tell whether these benefits will warrant the added expense of using the treatment. Certainly no amount of estrogen can take the place of good management.



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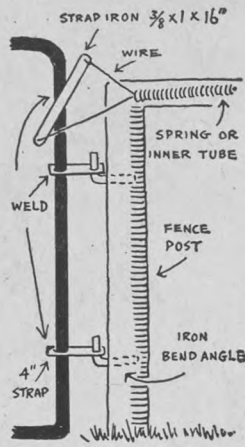
**"KING OF PAIN" LINIMENT**

19-46

# Workshop In August

Some ideas to make work lighter in hot weather

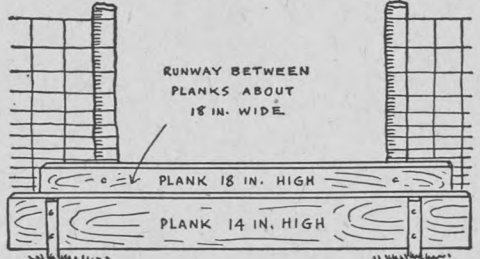
## Gate Shuts Itself



This arrangement can be used on small gates around the farm yard. It permits the gate to swing either way by giving it a push and it always returns by itself to the closed position. The strap iron is welded across the back of the gate and two wires or cables are run to a spring or piece of old inner tubing. This gate is not suitable where there is danger of livestock pushing it open.—P.A.T.

## Gateway Hog Trap

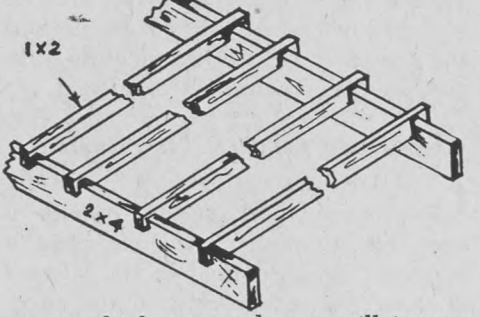
It is often desirable to leave gates open for horses and cattle while keeping the hogs from passing through. With two planks arranged as in the drawing, the hogs are not able to jump



over them both and if they are persistent in trying to get out the gate, they will enter one end of the runway and come out the other thinking that they have been successful. Horses and cattle are able to jump over the two planks with little trouble.—E. L. M.

## Movable Chicken Roosts

It is much easier to clean dropping boards if the roosts are arranged in movable sections. We ripped one by four's and set them on edge in notches cut in two by four's. A set of these



roosts which we made are still in use and as good as new 20 years later. Their big advantage is that they may be removed for cleaning the dropping boards.—A.M.C.

## Plugging Pipe Hole

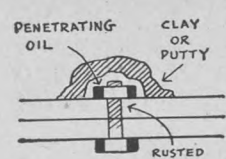
A convenient way of plugging a hole where a piece of pipe has been removed is to take the coupler off the pipe and insert a ball-bearing of the right size. Replace the coupler nut and the job is done.—E. E.



## Using Old Inner Tubes

By cutting diagonally across an old inner tube, it is possible to obtain rubber bands of almost any desired length. Another use — a section cut from an old tube and tied up at one end forms a handy collapsible container to fill a leaky auto radiator.

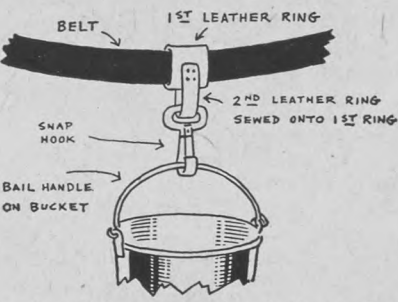
## Loosening Rusted Nuts



Penetrating oil will usually loosen a rusted nut if the threads of the bolt can be kept saturated for a short while. In locations where it is difficult to keep the oil around the nut some damp clay or putty may often be used to form a little reservoir for the oil. A form of this type can be used on vertical surfaces and on the bottom of horizontal surfaces.—T. L.

## Pail Holder

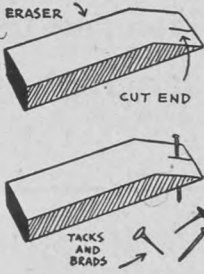
Berries may be picked much more quickly and easily when you have two hands free. A holder for the pail may be made from two small pieces of leather and a snap. The larger piece of leather is sewn in the form of a



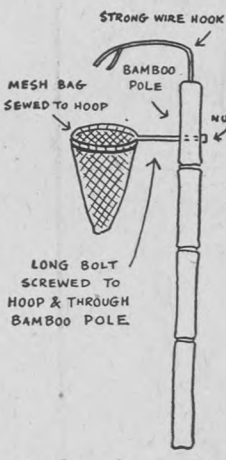
loop to slide over the belt and the second one is inserted through the ring of the snap and sewn to the first. The handle of the pail may then be hung from the snap, is easily hooked on and removed and will stay in a straight, convenient position while picking the berries.—D.B.

## Eraser To Start Tacks

To eliminate the bruised fingers and lost tempers caused by trying to start small tacks or brads, a rubber eraser is a valuable aid. Cut a slit in the tapered end of the eraser about one-quarter of an inch long. Place brads and tacks in this slit and hold them in place until started. The idea can also be applied to starting small screws and bolts.—M.K.V.



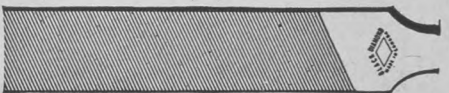
## Fruit Picker



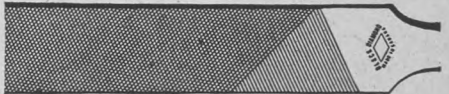
This fruit picking aid is made on a long bamboo pole of the type used for fishing or binder whips. The hook at the extreme end of the pole may be made of stiff wire and must be wedged solidly into the top of the pole. The hoop for the bag

may be of wire but a crocheting hoop is more convenient. The bag can be a small salt or sugar bag or one such as a grocer uses for fruit and candy. A long, quarter-inch bolt, threaded at both ends is inserted through the pole and hoop and held with two nuts. To use the picker, simply reach up into the tree and hook the apple or cherries and they will drop into the bag.—D.B.

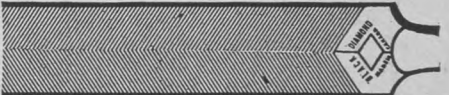
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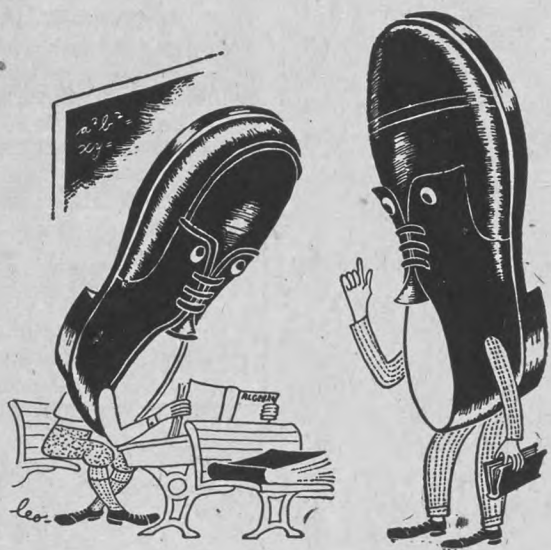
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## FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



The boys are feeding poultry belonging to the poultry club at Preston Manor School, Wembley, England. The 13 club members own and care for the poultry, buy the feed, and, with the help of the school staff, make plans for the club.

### Ambitious Project

YOUNG Farmers' Clubs have undertaken quite a diversity of projects one time or another. There are cases of the purchase of good seed to improve the members' grain crops, and other records of purchasing good sires and heifers to improve stock. However, the North Prairie Young Farmers' Club have undertaken the ambitious project of building approximately 20 miles of power line out of Preeceville, Saskatchewan to service their members. It has been estimated that the project might cost \$12,000, but the young farmers are proceeding with their plans without worrying too much about that detail.

It is interesting to note that some of the clubs in this area take the matter of attendance quite seriously. D. Hluchaniuk, local agricultural representative, reports that it is not unusual for a fine of one dollar to be imposed on a member if he fails to attend a meeting, though the fine is scaled down to 50 cents if he notifies the secretary before the meeting date that he will be unable to attend.

### Leading Group Discussion

GROUP discussions, if carefully prepared and guided, provide a very effective means of outlining a program. A great deal of the success of such discussions rests in the effectiveness of the leader. If he does not know a few basic principles, and cannot control the meeting it is not likely to be of a great deal of value.

When the group of people have assembled there are a number of jobs the leader must do. These are outlined in a circular entitled "Suggestions for Group Discussion Leaders" put out by the Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

The first job is to see that all present are acquainted. If the group is small enough it is desirable to seat them around a table, so that each person can see all members of the group. Before the discussion begins the leader must point out that no one person will be allowed to monopolize the discussion. The important thing is for each one to be given an opportunity to air his views.

After discussion begins it is likely

to be shallow unless the leader has thought the problem through with considerable care. If this is done it will be possible to place the problems before the group as fairly clearly defined questions. During discussion it is not considered wise to aim direct questions at any member of the group, except perhaps in cases where the person in question is very hesitant.

Perhaps the most important thing for a leader to remember is to keep his own views out of the discussion. The main job of the leader is to encourage other people to express their opinions. His ideas must always remain in the background. In any case a good leader will be fully employed keeping discussion on the track, drawing out opinions from others, periodically summarizing the points established, restraining those who wish to monopolize the conversation and keeping all discussions on a friendly and informal plane.

Young people's discussion groups can be extremely useful. However, unless there is a good leader who knows his business they often do not accomplish too much.

### Coyote In Trouble

A FEW farmers northeast of Craig-myle have had brief glimpses of one of the tragedies of wild life. It's a coyote with a can wedged over its nose well up to the eye-line—a predicament from which it seems unable to extricate itself. It was spied a few weeks ago and once or twice since. Some efforts have been made to hunt and kill it, to save it from misery and a slow death, as well as rid the district of one of these marauders that are a real menace to poultry and small farm animals.

It is not known how this particular coyote met with its tin can misfortune, nor why it has not been able to dislodge the tragic trap. It evidently has been attracted to the can by some tempting morsel in it. Some folks wonder whether in its greed to get every particle in it, the can ledge has gone back far enough to clamp behind the jaw bones. Or some conjecture the can had a jagged opening that cuts into the skin in his effort to get free from it, and he's found it too painful a process to tear away from it.—Craigmyle, Alta.



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AT ANY DRUGGIST; OR FROM YOUR MAIL ORDER HOUSE

## Lightning

Continued from page 8

follow drafts and you won't attract it by standing near a window or holding a metal utensil in your hand.

Livestock losses from lightning can be accounted for quite easily when the cases are studied. Bolts striking a fence follow the wire conductor in search of a place to go to ground. Livestock drifting with the storm huddle in a fence corner and any which are touching the wire or are very close to it will provide the required ground connection. Clothes lines or fences running to the house or outbuildings should be grounded. Telephone and power lines are equipped with proper protective devices when they are installed by the utility. Should lightning arresters on the lines become damaged this should be rectified with haste for lines improperly protected create a hazard to the buildings.

The safest place to be during a storm is in a properly rodded building

or an automobile. Lightning arresters on farm buildings are more than 99 per cent effective. Passengers in an automobile are safe since the charge will follow the metal body of the car through to the wheel rims. Arcing will occur where the bolt jumps from the rims to the ground but will not likely do damage. Steel buildings are safe if they are properly grounded. The ground wires should go at least 10 feet into the ground to make good contact.

Aeroplanes are frequently struck by making contact between positive and negative clouds. Where conduction is provided by a metal frame or by installed wiring, no damage is done. There is no danger to passengers and only slight shock when a bright flash occurs.

Lightning is the brightest show on earth. We must respect it but there is little reason to fear it if proper precautions are taken. Next time you see a flash of lightning you can stand back and say, "there goes 500 times as much power as there is in all the automobiles in North America."

## Underground Wonders

One hill sinking into the ground while another rumbles

by MAUDE BRIDGMAN

PEOPLE from far away places go to gaze on the amazing sight of the "sinking hill," down in the southwestern corner of Saskatchewan. Instead of gazing up at it, visitors look into a valley that is fifty feet deep and is three-quarters of a mile long. Men with university degrees behind them and those who toil with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act have been there and have studied the hill and wondered. Some feel that water erosion under the surface of the earth, caused by an underground river, may be at the bottom of the whole thing, or that the hill may be resting on a huge bed of quicksand.

Forty years ago it appeared to be an ordinary hill and it was not until about two years later that cracks were to be seen opening up here and there around it. Parts of the surface sank from six to eight inches in the first year. Every year after that the hill had a way of dropping quietly away. Rumbles could be heard at times quite distinctly as though there might be water below. When a small pebble was dropped in one of the cracks it seemed as though it might be falling two hundred and fifty feet or maybe three hundred.

The year that came around with the most moisture for many a day was 1918 and the top of the hill sank to the tune of 25 feet that year. Every time anyone turned for a second glance at it, it appeared as though it had taken time off to do a little more sinking right there. Even before the hill began the disappearing act, livestock would not tolerate it.

B. Newton was a close neighbor of the hill; in fact, the closest one, and one fine day when he was riding a horse to the hill he discovered he could not urge the horse to put a foot on the higher ground. He began to get a little suspicious about that time.

At the north end of the hill a spring may be seen, and the water is covered with a peculiar coating that many people think resembles oil. Animals turn up their noses at the mere thought of drinking it. In the early

settlement of the country surrounding the sinking hill prospectors surmised that there could be either gas or oil hidden away under the hill.

THERE is another hill towards the northern part of the province known as Thunder Hill that boasts a proud legend. It is rather a lonely hill as not a person lives within five miles of it. The Indians bestowed the name on it. The hill is rather important in size though, as it is about four miles long, extending east and west, and is about two miles wide. The slope of the hill approaches the boundary between Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The Indians tell visitors that the hill is a storm centre and when thunder rumbles above it, the lightning strikes at the hill's bald crown. The legend goes on that in the hill is an enormous eagle's egg. Inside it is an eaglet forever trying to get out by pecking at the shell. This is the thunder. Above in the clouds the eaglet's spiritual mate sends down angry shafts of fire in an endeavor to free the bird. This is the lightning.

Even when the weather is quite cold, the distinct rumblings like thunder can be heard. They come at regular intervals of an hour apart. The Indians that have lived in the district for a great many years say that this condition has existed for as long as they can remember. Their parents had explained that when the Indians were quite young the hill had been the home of a large bird and at an early time the bird had been disturbed and driven from its nest. Ever since that time the hill has been cursed.

The rumblings of thunder do not vary but sound to be a series of five booms quite easily heard. They are somewhat like a number of hoots of an owl. Surveyors working in the neighborhood explained that they could at times hear the rumble distinctly.

Just what is behind it all is still guesswork, but some people think it also has to do with underground waters.

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# MONTHLY

## Initial Prices Set On Oats And Barley

On July 20, the Right Honorable C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced at Ottawa the arrangements under which oats and barley will be handled by the Canadian Wheat Board for the crop year 1949-50.

As was generally expected, initial prices to producers are based on the support levels previously in effect, at which the government had guaranteed to buy oats and barley, if necessary, in order to sustain market values. These are 61½ cents per bushel for oats and 90 cents for barley, in store lakehead terminals for No. 1 Feed grades, with prices for other grades, in relation thereto, to be set by the Wheat Board. From such prices, however, a deduction of 1½ cents per bushel on oats and three cents per bushel on barley is made to provide a reserve against operating costs of the barley and oats pools including carrying charges. In addition, of course, the usual deductions for freight and elevator handling costs have to be made.

As is already in effect on wheat, participation certificates are issued at the time of delivery, entitling producers to share in any net surplus left at the end of the year after sales are completed and all expenses paid.

While initial prices to producers will remain constant throughout the year, the Wheat Board's selling prices for coarse grains will be subject to daily fluctuations. The Wheat Board is to post these prices daily in line with demands and with the world situation. Those are the words used in the published press statement from Mr. Howe. Since changes in the world situation are reflected in the Chicago market, and since any surplus of oats and barley over Canadian requirements would presumably find an outlet in the United States, it may be expected that the Wheat Board selling prices will be affected by changes in the Chicago market. That does not mean, however, that such selling prices will necessarily be below Chicago prices by the freight and duty costs of shipping grain to the United States. It could happen, as the result of small production in the West, and of heavy demands in other parts of Canada, that at times the available supply would not be any more than sufficient for the current domestic demand. In such case, the Wheat Board might well be able to get more than the Chicago level for its grain. In fact, there has been a condition during recent weeks when, with short supplies at the lakehead and a strong domestic demand, Canadian prices were well above those in the United States. In a case such as that, Chicago prices still remain important. They put a limit on Canadian values because there is always a possibility, at certain price spreads, of Ontario farmers importing feed grain from the United States.

There will be many points in western Canada this year, where farmers instead of selling oats and barley, will need to buy feed grain, and to some extent this will have to be shipped in from outside points. Local selling prices, of course, will change in rela-

tion to changes in the selling prices for grain in terminal elevators.

The Wheat Board is not expected to set up sales offices in eastern Canada, but instead will presumably rely on the regular machinery of the trade in making sales.

While all grades of barley will be handled on a pooling basis, with a final price established for each grade, there will be no pooling of the premiums paid by malting companies and exporters for the special selection of cars. Instead, each producer who forwards a car of malting barley, which is accepted by maltsters, will be free to obtain whatever selection premium is available at that time. These selection premiums, which as producers know, vary from time to time and occasionally are non-existent.

Initial prices, of course, are well below market levels recently prevailing and producers will be entitled to hope for a final payment on participation certificates. The extent of that will depend upon prices which the Board is able to get throughout the year. Final payments will probably vary considerably between different grades. The Wheat Board could hardly be expected to set the spreads between different grades on the basis of the selling spreads that will actually prevail during the selling season. In barley especially there is likely to be a wide difference in spreads prevailing from time to time, largely depending on the relative demand for malting barley and for feed grades.

While all deliveries of barley made on and after August 1 must be made to the Wheat Board, under combined Dominion and provincial legislation, the Wheat Board is not taking over commercial stocks of oats and barley marketed by farmers up to the end of July. These will be disposed of, at their own discretion, by elevator companies and other holders. Thus for a time after the new crop begins to move, there will be two classes of coarse grains for sale, consisting of Wheat Board and of open market stocks, although presumably the selling prices for both classes of grain will be at the same level. Existing stocks of old crop grain have of course been largely hedged in Winnipeg futures market, for October and December delivery. Consequently, open market trading both for cash grain, and grain for future delivery, will continue for some time until the old stocks are cleaned up. There is nothing to prevent the Wheat Board from using the futures market for forward sales, should it so deem advisable. Nor is there anything to prevent those who have bought oats and barley from the Wheat Board from reselling such grain for future delivery. Nor is there anything to prevent, so far as the law is concerned, continued operation of the Winnipeg futures market. However, it may be that trading on that market will gradually dry up, as old crop stocks of grain are disposed of. Thus for a time Winnipeg market quotations are likely to give some indication of prices being obtained by the Wheat Board. If and when that is no longer the case there will be a daily published statement



# COMMENTARY

of the Wheat Board's current selling prices.

To barley producers, one of the most interesting questions will be the extent of the American demand for Canadian malting barley. When, as at times has been the case, that demand is strong, it is likely to force a wide spread between prices for feed barley and the higher grades. At other times, when the American demand is small, Canadian maltsters may be able to obtain their supplies of barley at not much above feed prices. Much of course will depend on the out-turn of the barley crop in the United States this year. At times in the past, the Canadian Government has forbidden or restricted the export of barley to the United States in order to conserve feed supplies for the benefit of farmers in eastern Canada. Through control of the Wheat Board, the government still has the power to take such action, which no doubt in some circumstances might be strongly urged upon it by hog feeders in the East.

## Wheat Board To Operate Voluntary Flax Pool

The Canadian Wheat Board will operate a voluntary pool in flax for the crop year 1949-50 with initial prices based on \$2.50 per bushel at lakehead terminal elevators. Producers, however, will be free to sell elsewhere, if they are able and willing to do so.

This initial price contrasts strongly with the \$5.50 per bushel paid for flax by the Government of Canada during the crop year 1947-48, and the \$4.00 price, which prevailed as a minimum from August 1, 1948 to July 31, 1949. So also the method of handling is different from that previously applied to flax. It corresponds with the voluntary Pool basis which was in effect for wheat prior to September 23, 1943.

For several crops ending with that of 1948, the Government of Canada undertook to buy outright all flaxseed offered by producers at prices set each year prior to seeding. During that period, because of a world-wide shortage of oil, the government desired to encourage the production of flax and consequently offered prices intended to stimulate seeding. That policy was abandoned for the crop year 1948-49. Instead, the government guaranteed a minimum price basis for flax of \$4.00 per bushel. Producers were free to sell as they chose, but in order to hold prices to the guaranteed level, the government undertook to buy on the open market to whatever extent might be necessary.

Quite evidently it had been the hope of the government, when it announced this arrangement, that it would not have to buy flax, that the market would take care of offerings. However, there was a very large production of flax in 1948, both in Canada and in the United States, as well as considerable production in Argentina. At the same time, export demand fell off, partly because other oils were becoming available, but also very largely because European countries found it difficult to obtain dollars with which to buy Canadian flax. United States Government, under its European recovery plan, provided a good deal of money to enable European countries to buy American flax. Because, however, flax had become a surplus commodity in United States, the govern-

ment of that country refused to allow E.R.P. funds to be spent in Canada for Canadian flax.

The consequences were twofold, on the market and on supplies. While the open market took some flax at the beginning of the crop year, the price soon fell to the \$4.00 level, which compelled the government, in order to make good on its guarantee, to buy practically all western flax delivered by farmers. At the same time, supplies piled up in Canada because the production had been greatly in excess of domestic needs and there was practically no export outlet. The flax deliveries during the past crop year amounted to over 15 million bushels or five million bushels in excess of those of the previous year. The carry-over figures for July 31 will show about seven million bushels of flax seed, practically all of which is in government ownership. Presumably, the government will take a considerable loss on this grain. For a while it maintained a selling price of \$4.00 per bushel, but towards the end of the crop year, it marked its selling price down to \$3.80 and it may have to make still further reductions.

The Canadian Wheat Board has acted as the government agent in its flax operations. Consequently, as soon as the new crop begins to move, the Wheat Board will have two classes of flax on its hands. The first will be government flax carried over from the previous crop, the cost of which was on the basis of \$4.00 per bushel. The second class will be producers' flax of the new crop delivered on the basis of the initial price of \$2.50, to be handled under the voluntary pool for the benefit of producers. Thus the Wheat Board will have a duty both to the government and to the producers and it might create difficulty if the Wheat Board had to decide between the two. However, the government has solved the problem by announcing that the Wheat Board has been instructed to give priority to sales of the 1949-50 crop.

Although the flax futures market on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange remains nominally open until the end of July, with anyone free to buy or sell there, it had for a long time been inactive with all flax transactions being conducted on behalf of the government. It was very doubtful if a satisfactory open market for flax could be conducted for 1949-50. In the first place, there was so large an accumulation in the hands of the government that traders, uncertain of government policy, might hesitate to commit themselves in the market. In the second place, with the prospect that futures trading in oats and barley would soon dry up, there was some doubt as to whether the volume of available business would be sufficient to maintain the structure of the open market.

A producer who is not satisfied with the initial Wheat Board price may of course hold his flax in store or if he has a carload can consign it to lakehead terminals, to determine what it can be sold for there. It is not yet clear, however, that conditions will be such as to enable elevator companies to buy flax outright, or to offer producers at country elevators anything better than the initial price available from the Wheat Board.

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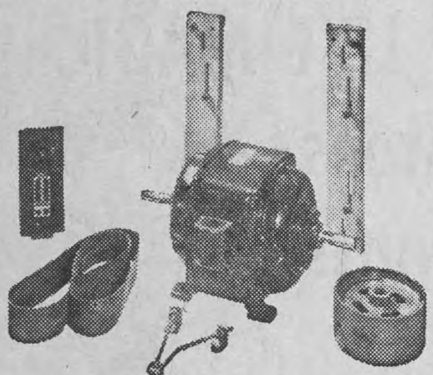
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## Aye-Aye Mister Mate

Continued from page 9

to see him lose his temper just once."

"He's got no temper," said the second mate. "If he ever gets his ticket, he'll be a fine large joke. His men'll laugh in his face."

As soon as Gregory had finished his apprenticeship he took his exam and passed for second mate, and he was lucky enough to get a second mate's berth right away.

IF Gregory's new ship had been specially manned for him, she couldn't have fitted him better. There were no apprentices in her, and every one of her foremast hands was either Swede, Norwegian, or Finn. You know how it is with those fellows. In the first place they're almost always cracking fine sailors; and in the second place they never make any trouble. Docile is the word for them. It takes the meanest of officers to rouse their temper. The skipper was an easygoing old sort, and the mate was like him. The ship was a regular "home ship," and the voyage that Gregory made in her was as peaceable as a voyage could very well be. She didn't experience any particularly bad weather, and when she came in after a year and a half Gregory took his mate's ticket.

It was funny how the luck stayed with Gregory. It's not often that a young fellow just out of his apprenticeship lands a second mate's billet right away, and it's still rarer for a man who's just passed for mate to land a mate's billet. Gregory did. He was wandering about the docks on the day after he'd taken his ticket, looking for a ship needing a second mate. He'd been aboard several ships and was approaching another when four men came over her gangway carrying a stretcher. Her mate had been injured by a cargo sling that had carried away, and was being taken to hospital. She was deep loaded and her sails were all bent. She was ready for sea, and due to go out next morning. When Gregory stepped to her deck he met her skipper, who was going ashore in a great stew because, with a thousand things to see to at the last minute, he also had to find a new mate. He took Gregory on at once.

The crew came aboard that night, and the ship towed to sea at dawn. When the tug dropped her a few miles off shore and the mates went to setting sail, they very soon found that there was only one man in the fore-castle who was fit to be called a sailor. He was an old, grey-haired, stooped-shouldered, bow-legged Dane. He had been at sea some forty-five years or so. A regular old shellback, simple and honest—a sailor when at sea, a fool when in port. He'd come aboard hog-drunk like the rest of the crew, and with a bottle in his pocket. The others had all turned in and gone to sleep, but he'd spent the night finishing his bottle and singing chanteys in the fore-castle. At the first long breath of the sea wind, with the first roll of the ship, he was instantly sober—or at any rate, practically so.

The second mate said to Gregory, "Good night, sir! Lord love a duck, we'll catch hell off Cape Stiff if we try to get this hooker round it with this lot of swabs!"

Gregory, who was watching the old Dane, said nothing at all. He'd been around the Horn ten times. The second mate had been round once.

The second mate begged Gregory to try to get the skipper to put back for a better crew. Gregory didn't do so. Maybe he'd have liked to. I don't know. Sailors were scarce, and he knew it. Several ships had gone to sea in the last few days, and had taken the pick. If the ship were to put back, she would probably have to wait some days for other men, and, with steamers crowding sailing ships on every trading route, hurry was the watchword.

The mates managed to get sail on the ship. Any one can loose a sail, or pull on a rope after a fashion. A fair wind took her down to North Sea, and out into the channel. When she was pretty well down channel, the wind fell away to an air. The second mate came to Gregory and begged him to try to get the skipper to put in somewhere for a better crew. Gregory said, "We've got one good man, and there'll be plenty of time for the others to learn between here and the Horn." The skipper hadn't noticed the crew. He was one of those skippers who, while themselves attending to the navigation, leave the foremast hands entirely to the mates. He was a large, fleshy man, ponderous and rather short-winded.

The wind soon came back, and the ship ran her course at a good clip. Gregory set the old Dane to work in the rigging and put the rest of the crew to cleaning ship. She was loaded with general cargo, among which were hundreds of tons of coal, and was filthy, of course. Had Gregory been skipper, he would perhaps have left the cleaning ship till later and would have spent the early part of the voyage in drilling the men into sailors. It was the skipper who gave him orders to clean ship. The skipper was a great stickler for cleanliness, one of the sort who go in heavily for paint and polish and are a bit apt to neglect other things for the sake of a smart appearance. The second mate was desperate, but Gregory never turned a hair.

IT was remarkable how the fair wind held, all the way down into the trade winds. The trades took the ship south of the line, which she crossed when twenty days out, and all the way there had never been occasion to take a sail off her. That sort of thing happens not infrequently. What made it remarkable in this instance was that it was certainly not the best thing to happen. The crew were still cleaning paint work, polishing brass, and hollystoning decks. The old Dane still worked in the rigging. She was in good shape aloft, and such repair work as was necessary could be done by one man, provided he was a good one. The old Dane was a good one.

The northeast trades carried the ship right into the southeast trades, without any doldrum weather at all. The second mate was like a grasshopper on a hot stove lid. One morning when she was getting well down in the trades, down to the latitudes in which she might loose them at any time, he took it on himself to speak to the skipper—a thing that second mates don't ordinarily do.

"How'd it be, sir, to take some sail off her and set it again, just by way of giving the hands a bit of sail drill?" asked the second.

The skipper looked at the second mate as though he weren't sure he'd heard him aright.

"They're a lot of useless swabs, sir."

There's not a sailor in the lot," said the second mate.

The skipper called Gregory. "What's the matter?" he asked. "What's all the fuss about? Can't you handle this ship, mister?"

Gregory looked the skipper coolly in the eyes. "Yes, sir. Everything's all right," he replied.

When the skipper had gone below, the second mate cursed Gregory to his face, demanding, "How the devil do you think we'll ever get around Stiff alive?"

Gregory shrugged his shoulders.

The trades took the ship to latitude thirty-three south and left her there. She lay in a flat calm off the River Plate coast—a sullen sea below, a sullen sky above her. The second mate wore the look of a condemned man. Lots of ships have been lost off the Plate. The Plate's a bad place, very bad. Gregory remained quite unruffled.

TOWARD dusk the skipper came on deck and ordered the royals and topgallantsails taken in. It took the crew over an hour to furl those light sails. A good crew would have done it in twenty minutes or less. They were still aloft when the skipper came up again and ordered the main-sail and foresail furled. That took the crew another hour and a half. The second mate went aloft with them, and hearing him curse up there, the skipper said to Gregory, "What's the matter aloft, mister?"

"Nothing, sir," said Gregory. "Everything's all right."

If it had not been for the old Dane, it would have taken the crew a lot longer to furl the sails than it did. He was of the sort to whom it makes no difference at all whether it is daylight or dark, hot or cold, flat calm or a gale blowing. Gregory was confident that with him aloft everything would be done all right. The Dane wouldn't come down till all was shipshape. Despite the differences in their ages, in their nationality and appearance, there was something precisely similar about the old Dane and Gregory. And though Gregory never held any conversation with him except on such matters as the work at hand, there was something of an understanding between them.

An hour or so after the ship was snugged down the wind came. Suddenly is hardly the word for the way it came. It was as though somewhere a button had been pressed to awaken the hitherto motionless air to utter fury. But, snugged down as she was, the ship was safe.

Toward morning Gregory went forward to look for the old Dane. The wind was a continual scream. Spray was driving over the ship in an incessant sheet. The decks were full of white water. It had occurred to Gregory that some of the sails might work loose from their lashings. The old Dane could not very well have seen to every foot of the gaskets with which the sails were lashed down, of course.

Gregory couldn't find the old Dane. He wasn't in the fore-castle, and he wasn't on the deck. Gregory took it for granted that the old sailor had been swept overboard in the darkness, so he went back to the pool. Since it would not be possible to put a boat out in such a sea, even with a good crew, he didn't call the skipper up to tell him that one of the men was lost.



After a while the bell struck, and a sailor came to relieve the wheel. Soon after the new helmsman arrived to take the wheel, Gregory went to look at the compass. At the wheel he found the old Dane.

"I was looking for you a while ago," said Gregory.

"I voss aloft sir," said the old Dane. Unordered, he had taken it on himself to go aloft and see that the furlled sails were all right. "Voss dot all right, sir?" he asked.

"All right," said Gregory, who had intended to send him aloft for just that purpose.

Soon after daybreak the wind moderated, and Gregory started to set some sail. It was the first time any sail had been set since the ship left port. That had been in fine weather, with a smooth sea. Now there was a strong breeze with a rough sea.

"You lot of infernal farmers!" bel-lowed the second mate, and began to use his fists on the incompetent crew, who were giving a good demonstration of lubberliness.

Gregory called the second mate aside. "Don't get excited, mister," said he.

Gregory walked to the rope on which the crew were hauling, took hold of it, and lent them a hand; without a word to any of them. Appreciating a mate who was willing to show them the way, they were soon learning to haul all together. The second mate, looking on, not offering to lend a hand, scowled and muttered to himself, "I wouldn't give a damn for the whole lot, mate included. This ship's a crazy madhouse and she'll never get around Stiff." He was several years Gregory's senior, and looked upon Gregory as a young, inexperienced fool. When sail was set he lost control of himself and again cursed Gregory to his face. That Gregory took no notice of him enraged him the more. He went to the cabin and called the skipper. "If you're going to try getting this packet around Stiff with this lot of swabs to handle her I'm done!" he said.

The skipper called Gregory. "What's the matter here? Have you any complaints to make?" he asked.

"No sir. Everything's all right," said Gregory.

The skipper ordered the second mate to go to his cabin.

**T**HE crew had seen and heard everything. They knew Gregory for a first rate seaman, and it appeared that he had confidence in them. You know how that sort of thing goes. Trust a man, and if there is man in him he'll make a try. The crew began to get a bit keen. But the skipper was becoming somewhat perturbed. It was borne in on him now that he had a very poor crew, and a rather peculiar mate. Without saying anything about it to Gregory, he decided to take the ship in the Falklands and get a new crew to take her round the Horn. The Falklands were only a few days' sail to the south and east. "I'll look after the ship by night. You'll take her by day, mister," he said to Gregory.

That night one of the hands came running to Gregory's cabin. The wind had freshened and the skipper had gone down to the main deck to see about taking some sail off the ship. It was the first time in a good many years that he had been down to the main deck. Many skippers never go down to the main deck when their ship is at sea. Owing to the water that was

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washing about on it, the main deck was slippery. He had been on it only a moment or so when he lost his footing and fell heavily. He was no sooner up than he lost it again. Before he could get to his feet a big sea came over the rail, washed him into the lee scuppers, back to the scuppers at the other side, and brought him hard against a stanchion. A minute later one of the hands stumbled over him as he lay groaning, and shouted to his fellows.

Gregory had the skipper carried to his bed, then returned to the deck to look after the ship. Having managed to get some sail off her, he went back to the skipper. The skipper's eyes were open. "Take her in, mister. Take her in," he groaned, and lapsed into unconsciousness.

"Very good, sir," said Gregory, taking it for granted that the skipper meant that he was to take the ship in to Frisco.

Gregory hurried up to the poop, and altered the ship's course heading her toward the South American coast in the hope of falling in with a steamer. She was well to the north of Magellan straits, and some hours after the skipper had been hurt the lookoutman in the bow reported a light right ahead. A steamer just come out of the straits was approaching. Gregory burned a blue flare to attract her attention, and, when she burned an answering flare, backed the main yard and brought the ship to a stop. In a few minutes one of the steamer's boats was alongside, to find out what was the matter.

Wakened by strange voices, the second mate came from his cabin. "I reckon you'll put in to the Falklands, eh, sir?" he asked, when he found that the ship was minus a skipper.

"What for?" calmly enquired Gregory.

"By gad, that settles it for me!" said the second mate, and ran back to his cabin. Hastily gathering his belongings together, he dashed out to the deck and clambered down into the steamer's boat where the skipper had just been conveyed that he might be rushed to the nearest port by the steamer.

AS soon as the boat was away, Gregory squared the main yard and put the ship back on her course for the Horn. Then he called the old Dane aft. "Stay on the poop and keep a close eye on the weather," he said. "Call me at once if the wind shifts at all, or shows any sign of freshening. I'm going to finish my sleep in the chart room."

Next day Gregory spent in drilling the crew; taking in sail and setting it again, over and over. A good crew, knowing that there was no skipper aboard, and no second mate, and that the mate was only a young fellow, would very probably have refused duty; would have refused to face the Horn and insisted that Gregory take the ship to the nearest port. It didn't occur to Gregory's lot of lubbers to do so. For one thing, they'd developed a good deal of respect for him, and for another didn't any of them realize what they were up against. It was not till evening that any question was raised, and then it was the cook who raised it.

The cook went to the forecandle and began to complain to the hands, saying that it was against the law for any such fellow as the mate to try taking

a ship round the Horn without a skipper or even a second mate. Gregory chanced to be passing the forecandle at the time, and when the old Dane, sheath-knife in hand, chased the cook from the forecandle, saw it. He saw the old Dane return to the forecandle, and heard one of the hands ask him, "Wot d'ye think? D'ye think things is all right?" The cook had wakened some doubts in the hands. Gregory listened to the old Dane pacifying them; heard him say, "Sure, tings iss all right. Der mate knows vell his yob." He said nothing about it to the Dane, or anyone else.

Gregory kept the deck all day, every day. At night he and the Dane stood watch and watch on the poop. In his watch below he slept on the chart room settee, where he was within instant call. Daily he gave the hands some sail drill. On the morning of the fourth day after the skipper left the ship, he took her past the corner of Staten Land. The Horn was now less than a hundred miles distant, to the south and west.

Coming out from under the lee of the land, the ship met a tumultuous sea and a stiff westerly wind. Gregory had expected just that, and had taken some sail in in readiness for it. Despite his evident nonchalance, and the complete indifference of the old Dane, the hands were feeling a bit jumpy. Once a ship gets past the corner of Staten Land the general scenery is enough to make the best of crews tighten up their belts a bit. Sky and sea looked mighty dirty, as they usually do thereabout.

Gregory quite possibly felt a bit jumpy himself. I don't know. No one knows. Certainly it was no light job he was undertaking. Any man in his shoes would have been justified in feeling rather nervous just then.

Gregory did the only thing he could do. Instead of trying to keep a lot of sail on the ship and crowding her along, he shortened her down till he had her under three lower topsails and the main upper topsail only. He knew he couldn't count on his crew to get sail off in a hurry. They had not yet had enough sail drill. Whatever happened, he mustn't be caught under too much sail. And the thing he expected very soon came. A Horn gale blew up from due southwest, from dead ahead. And it wasn't even a common Horn gale. It was a genuine Horn hurricane—or, rather, since a hurricane is a circular wind, a gale of hurricane force. He took the main upper and mizzen lower topsail off her, and went aloft with the hands to help them stow the sails. The men were pretty well scared but, noting Gregory's calmness and the utter indifference of the old Dane, steadied and did their work in reasonably good shape.

It blew for a full week, and Gregory scarcely left the poop all that time. There was nothing to do but ride out the blow. The ship was well found in all respects; standing rigging in first class shape, running rigging all good. The lifelines were stretched, the relieving tackles on the tiller. All through the blow a bag of seal oil was kept hanging over the lee bow, that the seeping oil might break the violence of the seas a little. "Diss iss der vedder vot make of you sailors now," the old Dane told the apprehensive crew, "der mate knows vell his yob. Dot's all right."



WHEN the westerly gale died, it did so very suddenly; just as those gales often go down there. A light breeze sprang up from the east—a fair wind for rounding the Horn. But Gregory couldn't make any use of the fair wind. The ship was lying far over to starboard. The cargo had shifted. Had the gale lasted even an hour longer, she very likely would have gone down. Gregory had been saved by the skin of his teeth, as you might say. Now, instead of piling the canvas on her, he must get her on an even keel if that could anyhow be done. He was pretty well fagged out for want of sleep, and the hands were pretty well fagged out, too. Even the old Dane looked a bit white about the gills.

Leaving the Dane on the poop to keep an eye on the weather, Gregory had the forehatch taken off and led the hands below to trim cargo. All that day and all night he worked amongst them, and worked harder than any. But there was no evidence of any nervousness in the way he worked. He was perfectly matter of fact. With him leading, they shovelled coal, moved heavy barrels of cement, laboriously hauled back-breaking bars of pig iron, and shifted lengths of railroad steel. When at last they had the ship trimmed, they were completely done in. So was Gregory, but he didn't show it.

When the hatches were on again, he looked at his crew and in even tones said, "Well, boys, that's a good job well done. It was a close call but you've saved her. Good for you, lads!"

Not till then did the hands realize in what dire peril they had been. Now one of them stepped forward, and, taking off his sou'wester, looked at his comrades. "Three cheers for the mate!" said he. But Gregory cut their cheers short.

"Hop aloft and get that mizzen lower and main upper topsail loosed!" he ordered. Weary though they were, the hands hastened into the rigging.

WHEN the sails were set he sent all hands below, the old Dane included, and himself went up to poop where he remained for a full four-hour watch that his men might have a good rest. By that time the wind was gone, the sea flat as a table top. Knowing that a Horn calm is almost invariably followed by a gale from the westerly, he ordered the two topsails furled once more, and when that was done went to the chart room to snatch a little sleep, leaving the old Dane to keep watch.

There's no use describing in detail just what took place during the ensuing three weeks. Gregory could, of course, have taken the ship back to the Falklands, or, as many skippers have done, could have turned tail on

the Horn and taken the easterly route by the Cape of Good Hope and Australia. He did neither. He fought it out. If ever any of the hands murmured, they did so amongst themselves only, and when the Dane was not present. At first Gregory shepherded them, working among them, leading them, encouraging them now and then with a word of praise, always infinitely patient. Dangerous though it often is, a sailor's work is really very simple. Willingness, and a reasonable degree of courage are the chief requisites. But even though he be unwilling, and a coward, a man will often manage his work well enough with someone to lead him. With the old Dane's never failing assistance, little by little Gregory made his men into sailors. After the first two weeks he was driving them, showing them that he trusted them, and no longer working amongst them. Treating them as though from the first they had been worthy seamen, he challenged their pride; and they answered the challenge well enough.

A month after passing the corner of Staten Land, Gregory headed his ship into the Pacific. She was rusty and battered. Her standing riggings needed setting up, her running rigging called for much repair. And now, with the old Dane to help him, he worked among the hands again; showing them how to splice, knot serve, rattle down, and so forth. Such sleep as he had he took by night, never more than four hours in the twenty-four; the old Dane keeping watch while he slept. In twenty-two days he crossed the line, and, with the tophammer all in good shape, set all hands to cleaning and painting.

When he took the ship through the Golden Gate she was as smart looking as any ship in port. And he was lean as a rake handle, not an ounce of spare flesh on him. But there was no care in his face, no sign of any strain. He looked what he was—a twenty-three-year-old mate, not very much more than a boy. And his crew were no longer lubbers.

As the ship approached her anchorage, Gregory called all hands to the quarterdeck. He said to them, "As soon as the anchor's down, the boarding house masters will be coming aboard. They'll offer you their rot-gut whiskey, and promise you all soft jobs. If you take their drinks, if you listen to them, you're a lot of fools. They'll take you ashore, keep you full of rotten booze, and first thing you know they'll have shanghaied you. What about it?"

The old Dane stepped forward. "Vee stays by der sheep, sir," said he. The hands joined in noisy acquiescence.

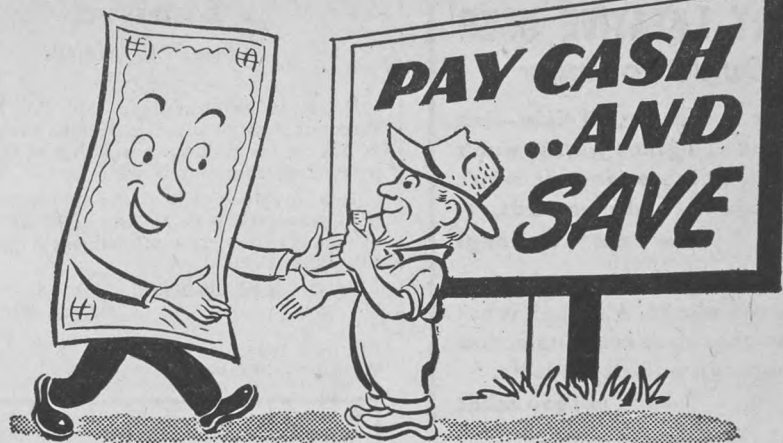
The boarding house masters came aboard, and went back ashore without having prevailed upon one of Gregory's men to leave the ship. That was something practically unknown in Frisco. It was the talk of the waterfront. Everyone was talking of Gregory, and of what a fine lot of men he must have.

A new skipper came aboard to take command, and, after lying at anchor a day or two, the ship went alongside to discharge. It was Saturday. At quitting time the hands went ashore.

When Gregory came on deck next morning there was no one about. That was all right, since it was Sunday. He went ashore, and spent the day.

When he came on deck Monday morning there was still no one

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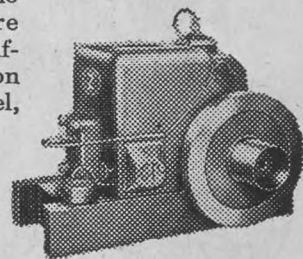
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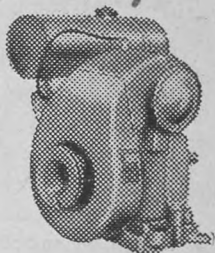
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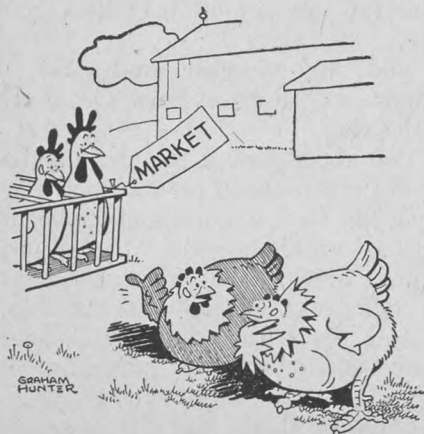
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This dividend will be paid on or about September 1st, 1949, to holders of such shares of record at the close of business on Saturday, July 30th, 1949.

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about. The forecandle was empty. He knew what that meant, or at any rate could guess. The boarding house masters had got his men. They would all be shanghaied; sold at so much a head to some other skipper, or skippers. He went to the new skipper and asked to be allowed to go ashore and look for the men. The skipper said, "No use, Mister Gregory. Sailors are a lot of fools. The boarding house masters have got them."

Word went round the front that Gregory's men had all skipped their ship. Everyone was laughing. "Gregory's a pretty good man, but you can't keep a crew in Frisco," they said. It was plain fact, of course. Not ten men in a hundred ever stayed by their ship in Frisco.

Gregory remained entirely unruffled. He didn't attempt to argue with his skipper. He stayed aboard all day, and saw two ships come down the river from Port Costs and anchor in the bay. He knew what that meant. The two ships would be going to sea right away, and it would be his men who would man them; or one of them.

If it had not been that the old Dane was amongst the skipped men, perhaps Gregory would have let things slide. I don't know.

Directly quitting time came and the stevedores went ashore, Gregory went too. He'd asked a few quiet questions during the noon hour, which he had spent ashore, and had found that his men were all at Shanghai Brown's place on Front Street. Brown was known as the toughest sailor's boarding house master in Frisco.

Gregory went ashore looking just as he had always looked, perfectly placid. He walked slowly, not hurrying in the least. He walked straight to Shanghai Brown's place, opened the door, and went in.

Brown was behind the bar. So was Brown's partner; an ex-prize fighter, heavyweight. After seven o'clock every evening he worked at a large dive on the Barbary Coast, where it was his job not because of the money that was in it, but because he enjoyed it; a natural born bully. Even amongst Barbary Coast bouncers he had a reputation. He was not as tall as Gregory, but weighed fully forty pounds more and was very much squarer built. In front of the bar one of Brown's crimps was sweeping the floor with a long broom. All three glanced up when Gregory entered.

Gregory said, "You've got my crew here. I want them."

Brown reached a bottle from under the bar, poured a drink, and held it toward Gregory. "Have one on the house, mister," he said, completely ignoring Gregory's words.

"I've come for my crew," said Gregory, ignoring the drink.

Brown winked at this partner.

The bouncer looked satirically at Gregory. "What's that you say?" he asked.

Gregory said, "You heard what I said."

"Suppose we tell you to get to hell out of here?" said the bouncer.

Gregory shrugged his shoulders.

"Then get to hell out of here!" said the bouncer, and moved round in front of the bar.

In later years, questioned as to what took place in Brown's place that evening, Gregory referred to the affair as "a pleasant little rumpus." Just exactly what happened no one could very well

say, I suppose, because it all happened so quickly. Neither Brown nor his partner ever discussed the matter, and Gregory was never much of a talker. Very shortly after it started, the crimp took his departure.

There are men who are born with a natural aptitude for using their fists, and Gregory was, we may presume, of that type. He was wiry, of course, and quick on his feet, and being accustomed to plain living and hard muscular exertion, in excellent trim, with plenty of wind. Brown, naturally, had no wind to spare; and the bouncer, in the common run of his bouncing, was used to dealing with men more or less in their cups.

A few moments after the crimp had cleared out, a young sea apprentice chanced to be passing, and, hearing a tinkle as of breaking glass, looked in. Brown was sitting on the floor with his back to the wall, his mouth wide open and one of his eyes closed. The bouncer was leaning back against the bar, his breath coming in gasps. There was a large bruise on his forehead, his nose and lips were bleeding, and he was cursing most horribly.

To quote the sea apprentice, "Mr. Gregory was yanking the bottles from the shelves behind the bar and shying them onto the bar room floor one after another. Gosh, there was whiskey and broken glass all over the shop! Brown got to his feet and shouted to him to stop, and Mr. Gregory yanked off the wall behind the bar one of those big paintings of naked women that you always see in a Frisco saloon and brought it down on Brown's head, so that his head came right through the canvas and he collapsed on the floor again. Mr. Gregory was whistling softly to himself like when a mate whistles for a wind in calm weather at sea. Brown saw me and called to me to get the harbor police, but I didn't, of course. When there were no more unbroken bottles left, Mr. Gregory walked to a door at the end of the bar room, opened it, and stepped through. I stepped in and went after him. There was a little narrow passage inside the door with another door at the other end of it. He turned the handle, but it was locked; so he kicked it in.

"There was a room with a lot of sailors in it, and you could see that they were all more or less drunk. They were lolling about on dirty cots, except one old grey-headed fellow who was on his feet singing 'Whiskey is the life of man, whiskey for my Johnnie.' He quit singing all of a sudden when he saw Mr. Gregory, and he and Mr. Gregory looked at one another for a minute. Then he stepped up to Mr. Gregory and said, 'Vee iss all done mitt der sea, Mister Mate. Vee is goin' get goot yobs on der shore. Brown iss goot vren' to sailor-mans, an' go get all us fallers goot yobs.'

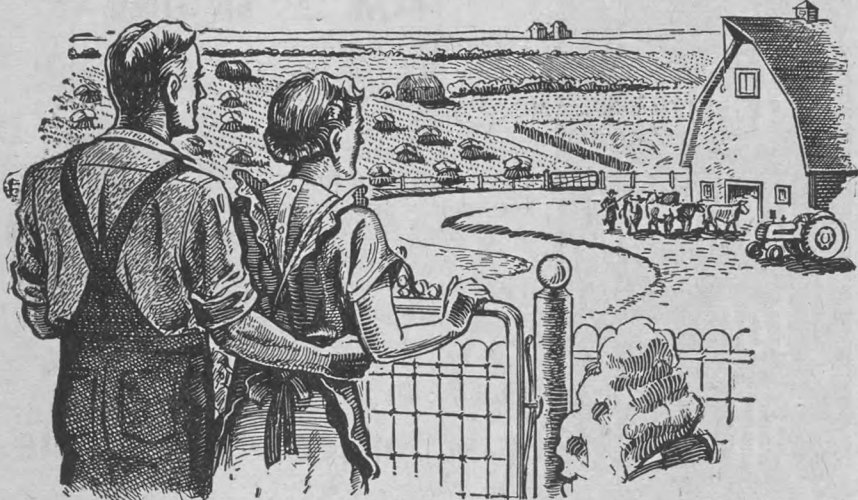
"And Mr. Gregory said, 'Yes, I suppose so. All right, boys. Get down to the ship.'

"For about half a minute, maybe, the old grey-headed fellow stood staring at Mr. Gregory, and then he began to look sort of sheepish. Mr. Gregory pointed to the door and said again, 'all right, boys. Get down to the ship.'

"And then the old grey-headed fellow said, 'Aye, aye, mister matel' He made for the door, and the others all followed him, and Mr. Gregory followed them all out to the street."

THE END

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# The Countrywoman

## Comment on recent triennial meeting of Canadian women of the press at the West Coast

by AMY J. ROE

The west coast must have been fully aware that some writing women had arrived, conferred and departed on the Friday afternoon aboard HMCS Crescent, a warship of the destroyer class, under command of Lieut. Commander D. W. Groos, D.S.C., R.C.N. The ship had returned on June 4 from four months active training cruise to points as far distant as Shanghai and Hong Kong. One might well hesitate to inquire what intelligence rating on matters nautical would be accorded the feminine representatives of the press by the officers and the crew, from the questions asked concerning the ship, guns and depth charges. But they were patient and polite for we were for the afternoon, guests of the Navy. We were invited to tea and took shelter in the mess room when a



Hollyhocks.

strong gale blew up and it was impossible to stay on the narrow deck during the latter part of the journey to Victoria. And while it may never be known what the Navy thought of the women of the press, one phrase "paper dolls" used by a waggish Vancouver newspaper man may take some time to die.

ON arrival at hotel rooms in Vancouver the visiting members found flowers waiting to say "welcome" as only lovely flowers can. There was a small box of apples for every visitor and a corsage to wear to dinner, all pleasant reminders of B.C. products. There were special trips to a salmon cannery and to Fairmead Farm to see the show place and Jersey herd of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Glaspie at Milner, in the Fraser River Valley. There was dinner in a Chinese restaurant, where, to a background of oriental music, the guests proceeded through an eight-course meal and endeavored bravely to manipulate chop sticks. Fortunately our hosts, The Vancouver Sun, had the menu items translated into English and saw that the management provided the customary cutlery just in case some of the guests, not proving adept with chop sticks, should miss their share of the "almond breaded chicken" or the "subgum fried rice." Later we watched a Fashion Show, when Chinese costumes of the past 200 years were

modelled by six young Chinese girls from the Y.W.C.A. A commentator explained each costume, pointing out its special features of color and design which marked it for wear for a wedding, formal or informal occasion. In Victoria there was a scenic drive, a picnic supper at the Dominion Experimental Farm at Saanich, our hosts being the Victoria Daily Times and the Victoria Colonist, and a morning visit to the farm home of Hon. and Mrs. W. C. Woodward. On the Friday evening members were entertained at a formal dinner by the government of British Columbia, with Mrs. Nancy Hodges, M.L.A., as speaker.

At this dinner awards for special distinction in writing were made, which included a gold medal and \$100. The 1948 award went to Lotta Dempsey Fisher for her article in Chatelaine entitled "We The People and the Sex Criminal." The 1949 award went to Dorothy Howarth, staff reporter of the Telegram, Toronto, for a series of articles on Newfoundland. Miss Howarth was busily engaged at her pre-election day task of reporting political meetings when the word came of the award. The Telegram sent her off by plane so that she would be able to receive it in person. The 1947 award was won by Margaret Ecker Francis for an article in Chatelaine entitled "Nostalgia," a story of the post-war homesickness for far places of ex-service men and women. The basis on which the awards have been given for the past three years is: "The best handling of a Canadian news event of significance in daily or weekly press, in popular magazine or periodical or on the radio or in advertising copy." This action by the C.W.P.C. in honoring those who do particularly fine work is in keeping with the stated aims: "To encourage young women entering the profession; and to do everything possible to promote a higher standard of writing in the press."

DOROTHY HOWARTH'S experience in getting into newspaper work is typical of the hard way of entering journalism. Born at Weyburn, Saskatchewan, she went through high school at Moose Jaw, then to Normal School. For the next eight years she taught school in the southern portion of her home province, during the drought-ridden years of the '30's. It wasn't until she was 25 years of age that she thought of newspaper work, when somebody made a chance remark that she ought to be a writer. Remembering that she had always liked English subjects and had led her class in school, on impulse she wrote the editor of the Regina Leader-Post and asked for a job. She got one but in the classified advertising department. But the women's editor gave her a chance to do evening assignments reporting concerts, meetings, etc. After three years she was given her first job in the editorial department—as a reporter with the Saskatchewan Farmer, which she later left to become a reporter on the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix. Then she suddenly got the urge to go east. She tried four newspaper offices in Toronto and was turned down before she landed a \$25 a week job as reporter with the old Evening Telegram.

At one of the busy sessions the C.W.P.C. paused to make special mention of Mrs. Annie Mathewson, who this year marked her 50th anniversary of joining the staff of the Fredericton Daily Gleaner. She started out as a typesetter and had been there a year when the owner one Monday morning asked her to write a report of a special sermon at St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church. Annie's reply had been: "I'm paid to set type, not to write." Then she walked over to the type case and set the story of the sermon straight from memory. From then on she was a reporter. For the past eight years she has been city editor and is now one of the few Canadian women to hold such office.

Later I hope to tell you something of schools of journalism now well organized and turning out students, and of Isabel Dingman, C.W.P.C. member, the first woman to hold a post as lecturer at such a school, in the British Empire.

THIS month I would like to chat about Canadian women who write. Some of them are regularly employed on daily or weekly newspapers or on monthly magazines as feature writers, editors or reporters. Some sign their articles and their names are widely known. Others, working equally hard at their tasks are cloaked in anonymity. The worth of their work can only be measured in the popularity or the high standard of the publication itself. A few serve in the comparatively new field of public relations or write advertising copy for large companies. A growing number write scripts which are used for the production of films or radio programs. There are too, the story-tellers and the poets. A fair number have had books published and there is a generous sprinkling of free lance writers, who, having some other occupation, turn to writing as a pleasant sideline.

Men and women readers, in every corner of the Dominion have their favorite publications among the many and various newspapers and magazines published. Canada is such a widespread country that it is difficult for most of us to get acquainted with more than a small percentage of the periodicals issued. But it is most important that Canadian writers of any responsibility, should seek out ways and means of becoming familiar with Canada, and not limit their interest and information to one sector of the country. They should know Canada, at least generally, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, know something of its people, their mode of life and way of thought. This means travel and frequent contact with people in other parts of the Dominion.

THE small group of writing women who organized the Canadian Women's Press Club in Winnipeg in 1907 had this thought in mind. In the 42-year interval the C.W.P.C. has done good service in fostering goodwill, mutual understanding and friendship among the press women of Canada and between them and women of the same profession in other countries. It has helped to make them conscious of high standards for the press and has in many ways brought about exchange of personnel on newspaper and magazine staffs, between the east and west. Its membership of 437 is necessarily restricted to those who are "active" and who must give proof of same by filling out an annual work form, covering status on a paper or articles published, to earn the right to membership.

The 1949 Triennial Conference of C.W.P.C. was held during the fourth week of June in Vancouver and finished on the week-end in Victoria. For some of the eastern members it was their first trip across the prairies and through the mountains. For others who had started in newspaper work in the west and had later gone east to better jobs and wider opportunities, it was a welcome chance to visit again spots lovingly remembered.

With gay but warm hospitality, which belied the time and effort which had gone into the careful preparations, British Columbians and its press in particular, proceeded to unfold their treasures of unique features, story and beauty before the eyes of its writing visitors. Here surely was a rare chance to let other parts of Canada "through the eyes of the press," know more about the west coast and its people! Here indeed for the scribes was fair "copy" which would go towards filling up pages, blankly waiting back home or a packet of "ideas" to tuck in a satchel against a later day's more leisurely writing for a future space opportunity!

In spite of business sessions crowded with craft talks on newspapers, magazines, films and radio and amendments to the constitution, necessary when a national organization meets only once in three years, and abundant entertainment in-between, some members daily turned out a "story" or a "column" which was dispatched by wire. Women, whose concern usually is to secure photographs and interviews from others, found themselves being photographed at every turn. Some obliged by giving radio talks and local radio commentators followed the doings of the C.W.P.C. meet with zest.



# Summer Solitude

SUMMER is a close and sultry season in the Cascades. My valley has lost the vitality of spring and early summer. The songs of thrush, warbler, sparrow, wren, grosbeak and phoebe have a dreamy quality while the river, shrinking between its banks day by day, is only a sleepy murmuring. The moss is brown on the great boulders beside the Teal, but still green in the deep recesses of the wood where the sun strikes only in narrow shafts between the trunks of the tall evergreens. Bushes meet across the trail with thimbleberries, black currants, red and blue huckleberries ripening on them while, along the ground, the Oregon grapes are beginning to show their first blue tinge. The sign of bear, deer or sly coyote is on every path and the great horned owl hoots through silver nights which are clear from slim crescent to last quarter.

Best of all to me, is the prodigality of sun in open places. I can never have enough of it. I stay outside almost every moment of every day, soaking the delicious warmth and light into my body and mind against those months of darkness when the sun is only brightness remembered.

All the trees in this district are good Mohammedans: fanatically so, for they make not only the customary obeisance but remain bowing to the east day and night. One of the first things one notices when walking along either of the rivers is how the tree tops bend away from the prevailing west wind. When the clouds come riding low and dark along the crest of Fireweed Mountain there is no doubt that a spell of bad weather is on the way. Just at the cabin, however, there is a frequent little breeze from the south; warm in winter, but cool now from passing over the mountain fields of snow.

Bathing in these mountain streams—intentionally, that is—must be restricted to summer, but walking is good at any season. In spring there are trips for exploration of nests and buds, in summer for flowers and berries, in autumn for leaves and wood, in winter for cones and paw prints—and all for beauty. It is difficult to have small thoughts when walking along a trail which was a river bed thousands of years ago, with the stumps of big trees on either side and other conifers almost as large standing upright and vital. Cougar Mountain rises three thousand feet above me. Once it was four thousand feet higher and coated with ice. Perhaps there is still hope for our sharp corners and glacial intolerance.

I AM sure, however, that I would not have cared as much for that universal morning as I do for the early dawns which tap at my window now. There would have been no thrush in it, no pale pink twinflower, no tall evergreens for shade and delight; but only hot winds and titanic downpours of rain, with lava underfoot and a great sun and moon moving across a storm-wracked sky with earthquakes behind them. The most severe climate of this present world would be mild and beneficent in comparison—but now there are the earthquakes of war,

*Now I can look at the mountains calmly and go with a clear heart along the trails, feeling kinship with everything that surrounds me*

by GILEAN DOUGLAS

the storms of pestilence, the killing winds of famine which go on not only undiminished but increased by some of the great "benefits" of civilization. We save with one hand and destroy with the other. We seem able to change everything but ourselves.

But that we *can* change, I know. When I consider the person I was when I first came to these mountains I know that something like a miracle has taken place. Now I am, though far from what I hope to be, capable of living with nature unashamed. I can go with a clear heart along any trail, feeling kinship with everything that surrounds me; as I do for everything living, human or otherwise, which is trying to reach up to those stars, "unutterably bright," which shine for all of us. How we do it does not matter, but that we *do* do it is of the utmost importance.

I REMEMBER when I first came here. The mountains made me feel so small and when night fell the forests seemed to threaten me with their greater darkness. Here was I, one little human in all this immensity of hilled and timbered space; no

neighbor for over three miles, no village for thirty, no town for more than a hundred. Mountains, rivers and forests were not strangers to me for I had seen them in almost every state and province of North America and in Hawaii, Europe and way places, but always surrounded by people and with cities everywhere. So now all this, to live in for my lifetime if all went well, seemed more than I could bear. I did not realize that I was like a starving man who has suddenly been given more than his stomach can tolerate; like someone whose body has become so inured to poison that purity revolts it. First I must cleanse myself, then I must renew. Then, and not until then, could I look my mountains calmly in the face and know that the kingdom of heaven was indeed within me—if I would only let it be.

How could it be otherwise when there is so much beauty everywhere on these summer days? In the small blue flowers of pea vine and the green-white blossoms of the round-leaved orchis; in the lilting flight of the warbling vireo and the olive-white flash of a Traill's flycatcher. As I sit

writing in the lessening warmth of the early evening sun, the distinctive call note of the varied thrush comes drifting on the air and, a little later, I am surprised to see Townsend's Solitaire at the edge of Home Wood. This elusive singer of the mountains usually frequents higher places and for a long time I was not even aware that he was an inhabitant of these particular hills. I have never really met him, but I would like to do so. He and I have much in common for we both prefer the solitary life and find great happiness in it.

The languidness of full summer is on my valley and on me. I sit back in my chopping-block chair and let my gaze go slowly from mountain to forest to river and back to mountain again. The perfume of stock and carnation drifts across my garden where the drone of the bees has lessened. The rivers murmur drowsily to themselves and a cooler wind drifts down from the uplands. Rose and saffron begin to tint the sky above Fireweed and the blue of the sky changes again and yet again. Then the first night star is hung in a fir tree near the Teal and the night-scent of earth is sharp in my nostrils. When I get up to go into the cabin I do not even ripple this great pool of solitude and peace which is my world.

## Music Soothes The Mind

*The right music for you is the music you like and which helps to create the proper mood*

by E. P. HERMAN

THAT music exerts well-defined effects on the human body and mind is a fact that has been known for a great many years. Among the ancient Greeks and Romans there were many physicians who included music as a healing measure.

Music is of value in every complicated situation in life. It exerts pleasant effects not only on the mentally sick, but upon the sound of mind during times when things are not going as well as they should.

"Music gives one a moral uplift," was the belief of Bruno Walter, the world-famous conductor. Singing, he also believed, is a wonderful exercise for the emotions. A community sing is a good way to get over petty troubles.

The benefits of music are by no means limited to the performers. It draws the audience into the same magic circle whether it numbers five or five thousand. They are swept away by the same wave of harmony and raised to the same emotional heights.

Singing is always beneficial, whether done in groups or in the bathtub. Singing in the bathtub has lately attracted the attention of musicians, psychologists and physicists. Singing in the bathtub sounds very good because the hard surfaces reinforce even the feeblest sounds and make them sound magnificent, say the physicists. Singing in the bathtub is also good for one's ego, say the psychologists. The unrestricted expression of self increases the ego by achieving a perfect escapist outlet.

The right music for you is the

music you happen to like. If it makes you feel better to play Just A Song At Twilight on the piano with one finger, then you are justified in playing it.

Music is a very personal thing. It can be made to help you over periods of emotional, mental and physical distress. Some people forget the trials and troubles of life by playing or listening to Beethoven's Concerto In C Major. Some enjoy a brisk overture, like William Tell, or Poet And Peasant or The Charge Of The Light Brigade. It does not take much time to find out what musical compositions will work wonders for you.

Music is versatile. It can help you in a great many ways. For instance, insomnia may be aided by music. One of my friends said to me: "If I don't think I shall sleep I play Schumann's Traumerei." Sleep may also be wooed by listening to recorded compositions. The music should be soft and lulling. It is all a matter of personal preference, and with the wide selection of recorded music available at the present time it should not take you long to find out just what pieces you can use to banish sleeplessness.

Music is a wonderful tonic to the emotions. "If I feel suicidal," someone once said to me, "I like to listen to Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. The sheer scarlet of the brass of this com-

position would lift anyone out of the dumps."

It has been found that music can be used with benefit every minute of the day. All over the world those who labor love to sing to soften their tasks. Among the peasants and working classes song is an habitual accompaniment to work.

All physical movement is made easier by music. Rhythm and physical effort go well together. This is something that every experienced trainer knows. When Boyd Comstock, some years ago, was called to Italy to train Italian boys and girls to run, jump, hurdle and toss weights, he found that he was more successful when he enlisted the aid of music. Comstock was getting nowhere with his charges till he noticed that the Italians had a great love for music. He found that a shot-putter, for instance, goes through a certain rhythmic routine as he hurls the shot. The same is true of the hammer thrower. Comstock then instituted a musical regimen in his training of Italian athletes and was most successful. It is now a well-known fact to most trainers that movement to musical rhythm gives an athlete more speed and more strength because it makes him keep his power flowing more smoothly. Without music he alternately lunges and relaxes, and this wastes power.

That music exerts powerful mental, social, educational and aesthetic effects upon human beings is now recognized everywhere. It is one of the most beneficial forces abroad in the world today.



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## Harvest Suppers

Hearty dishes appeal to harvest hands and to the housewife because they are easy to prepare

by LILLIAN VIGRASS

**H**ARVEST time means hungry men; and hungry men want plenty of good food, well cooked. They don't care for fancy dishes but prefer something more substantial and satisfying, "something that will stay with you for awhile." Even in the warmest weather they enjoy, and they need, a hot main dish for supper. That doesn't mean however that you must spend hours in the kitchen over the hot stove by any means. You can have these meals ready in not much more time than it takes to boil the kettle.

Often you can use the left-overs to make a tempting stew or an extra special hash which takes but a few minutes to prepare and is really delicious. The secret of success in these "left-overs" is the clever use of seasonings—onion, tomato, celery salt, paprika and cayenne. An extra supply of fluffy boiled rice in the ice-box, cornmeal mush or baked beans is a good start. It is surprising what good meals are made with them.

If supper can be partially prepared in the cool of the morning so much the better. Try to arrange the meal so that the cooking time will be only 30 or 45 minutes in the heat of the day yet the results will be stimulating and hearty. Any casserole dish can be pre-cooked then left in the ice box for several hours without harm, in fact allowing it to stand may bring out the flavor. All but the crisp greens for the salad will improve too with marinating. Be sure they are drained thoroughly however before adding them to the salad.

Never serve a dish that is barely warm. Be sure it is piping hot. No matter how tasty the food, it is not appetizing if it is half cold. Having the plates hot even in summer is advisable. The cool food should really be cold. Be sure the milk for drinking is left in a cold spot until the last moment. This is the best way to keep the family drinking it during the hot weather.

If soup is to be the main dish make it filling. Large steaming bowls of vegetable or fish chowder would be good, followed by a cool salad containing peanut butter, meat, eggs or cheese. Eggs in omelets or souffles, or cheese casseroles can be used as meat substitutes. Fish dishes are good too.

Summer is the time when green vegetables come into their own. Let them be the accompaniment to your supper dishes. Use them for every meal. Try not to serve too many starchy foods this time of the year. They seem to take the edge from the appetite and leave one feeling listless and dull. Polenta, or macaroni or rice casseroles could perhaps take the place of potatoes. Don't serve both at one meal. Using whole wheat or brown bread will cut down on the starch intake and its thiamin content will improve the appetite.

Here are some dishes to try. They will give variety to your meals, are easy to prepare and need relatively little cooking. Make enough for second servings. They will be asked for.

### Potato Hash

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 c. chopped potato | 2 c. chopped meat or fish |
| 1 tsp. salt         | ¼ tsp. pepper             |
| 3 T. fat            | ½ c. boiling water        |
| 2 T. grated onion   |                           |

Melt fat in the frying pan; add potato, onion and meat mixture. Pour the water over top and cook slowly without stirring until the under surface is a rich brown. Fold as in an omelet and serve on a hot platter.

### Baked Eggs and Tomatoes

- |                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1-2 c. canned tomatoes | 2 T. butter |
| 2 c. soft bread crumbs | ½ tsp. salt |
|                        | Paprika     |
|                        | 6 eggs      |

Add one cup crumbs to the tomatoes and place in a greased baking dish. Melt the butter and pour over the remaining crumbs. Break the eggs into tomato mixture being careful not to break them. Cover with the buttered crumbs and sprinkle with salt and paprika. Bake in a slow oven 275-300 degrees Fahr., for 15-20 minutes.

### Baked Rice with Cheese

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 2 c. boiled rice | ½ c. cut cheese    |
| ½ tsp. salt      | Few grains cayenne |
| Milk to moisten  |                    |

Arrange rice and cheese in alternate layers in a buttered baking dish. Pour milk over. A layer of tomatoes may be added if desired. Cover with buttered crumbs. Bake until crumbs are brown.

### Baked Bean Loaf

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 T. fat                 | 1 egg well beaten      |
| 1 medium onion, chopped  | 1 T. corn starch       |
| 2 c. baked beans, mashed | 2 c. grated old cheese |
| 1 c. soft bread crumbs   | 1 T. chili sauce       |
|                          | 1 tsp. salt            |
|                          | ½ tsp. pepper          |

Melt fat; fry onion until golden brown. Mix remaining ingredients thoroughly. Pack into a greased pan seven by five inches. Bake in a moderate oven for 30 to 40 minutes. Serve hot with vegetables or relish. Serves 6.

### Cabbage Rolls

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 c. mashed potatoes | Cabbage leaves                      |
| 1 medium sized onion | 1 c. cooked meat, ground or chopped |
| 1 green pepper       | Boiling water or stock              |
| Salt and pepper      | Sage to taste                       |
| Celery salt          |                                     |

Combine the vegetables, meat and seasonings. Shape the mixture into small rolls. Roll each of these in a cabbage leaf, wilted by placing it into boiling water for five minutes. Place the rolls in a greased baking dish. Add sufficient boiling water or stock to cover them about half way. Cover them and bake in a moderate oven 350-400 degrees Fahr., until the cabbage leaves are tender. Serve with shredded cabbage, boiled about eight minutes.

### Budget Omelet

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 c. soft bread crumbs | 4 eggs, separated        |
| 1 c. milk              | Salt and pepper to taste |

Mix milk and crumbs, let soak, then beat smooth. Beat yolks, add to bread mixture. Beat whites stiff and fold into mixture. Pour into hot buttered pan and cook slowly until firm—25 to 30 minutes. Cook in the oven for the last 10 minutes to brown on top. Serves 4-5. It can also be cooked as scrambled eggs.

### Polenta

Slice and fry chilled corn meal mush. Meanwhile make a tomato sauce and to it add a little left-over meat or grated cheese. Pour it over the fried mush. Serve hot with cabbage and carrot salad or a tossed green salad.



# ROGERS' GOLDEN SYRUP



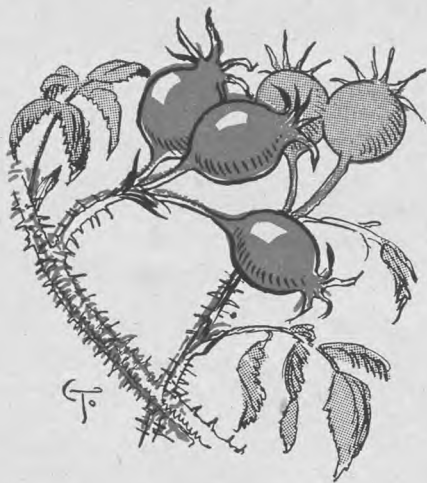
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## Rose Hips for Health

A ready - to - hand source of Vitamin C



As country children on our way home from school we would pause along the road to pick a handful of bright red roseberries and then nibble at the soft, outer pulp as we trudged on. Little did we realize we were thus getting our Vitamin C for the day. During the war Britain was faced with a shortage of citrus fruits. In an attempt to find some practical substitute, British scientists were surprised to find the common roseberry was extra rich in Vitamin C. The housewives and the school children gathered tons of the berries which were used to make rose hip syrup for the children.

It is not surprising that the wild roseberries are often called "Alberta Oranges," for although they are not the only Vitamin C food growing on the prairies they are the most common. Furthermore, a good part of the Canadian research has been carried on at the University of Alberta. You may want to write to that source for further information, or recipes.

Oranges, lemons, grapefruit and tomatoes are expensive, especially for the large family, yet these are considered, at least for prairie folk, the main year round source of Vitamin C. Vitamin C is essential for health and growth; it is necessary for normal teeth, gums and blood vessels; and it is also concerned in the prevention of infections and diseases. Rose hips, however, are growing nearby, free for the picking. Plan to make use of them this fall. Three of the berries contain as much Vitamin C as a medium-sized orange and will supply your Vitamin C requirement for the day.

Pick only the ripe berries that are vivid red and slightly soft. They have a much better flavor if it is after the first frost—preferably late August, September or October; but they may be picked anytime during the winter. Some of the Vitamin C may be lost if there is too great a delay between the picking and preserving although this vitamin seems to be more stable in rose hips than in other Vitamin C foods.

The work of separating the seeds from the pulp seems to have been the main objection to their use by the busy housewife in the past. Vitamin C is water soluble so boil the whole berry then put it through the colander using the juice and pulp for jams, jellies, syrups and pickles. As the flavor is rather bland when used alone it is advisable to mix the juice with that of other fruits, for example chokecherries, or to season it highly. Two teaspoons of the juice are higher in



## Flavory orange-filled rolls

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### ORANGE-FILLED ROLLS

Makes 2 Dozen

Measure into large bowl

1/2 cup lukewarm water

1 teaspoon granulated sugar

and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Sprinkle with contents of

1 envelope Fleischmann's

Royal Fast Rising Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

In the meantime, scald

3/4 cup milk

Remove from heat and stir in

1/4 cup granulated sugar

2-1/4 teaspoons salt

4-1/2 tablespoons shortening

Cool to lukewarm and add to yeast mixture; stir in

1/4 cup lukewarm water

Stir in

2-1/4 cups once-sifted bread flour

and beat until smooth; work in

2-1/4 cups more once-sifted bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl, brush top with melted butter or shortening. Cover and set dough in warm place, free from draught. Let rise until doubled in bulk. While dough is rising, prepare

#### ORANGE FILLING

Combine in a saucepan

2-1/2 tablespoons corn starch

1/2 cup granulated sugar

Gradually blend in

1/3 cup cold water

1/3 cup orange juice

1-1/2 tablespoons lemon juice and add

1 tablespoon grated orange

rind

1 teaspoon grated lemon rind

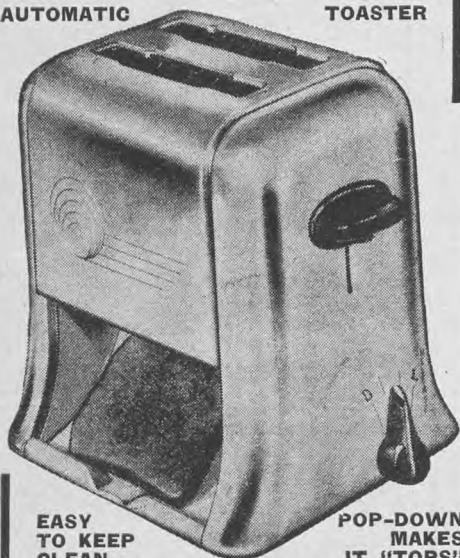
Bring to the boil, stirring constantly; boil gently, stirring constantly, until smoothly thickened; cool.

Punch down dough; form into a smooth ball. Roll into an oblong 1/4-inch thick and 26 inches long; loosen dough from board. Spread with cooled orange filling.

Beginning at a long edge, roll up loosely, like a jelly roll. Cut into 1-inch slices. Place in greased muffin pans. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderate oven, 350°, about 25 min. Serve hot, with butter or margarine.



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Vitamin C content than an orange so a small amount will go a long way. Process the pulp and juice without sugar and then add them to your other jams and jellies as you make them. There is no decided loss in vitamin content if the juice is boiled up to 30 minutes or stored as long as one year. Use stainless steel, glass or unchipped enamelware in cooking for the sake of color and flavor as well as vitamin content. A commercial pectin will give a better consistency if the juice is used alone or with other low pectin fruits.

## Rose Hip Juice And Puree

Cover the hips with water. Boil until soft (15 minutes). Put through a strainer or jelly bag depending on whether a puree, pulp or clear juice is required. The juice or pulp can then be used immediately or processed with or without sugar. (Process 45 minutes for juice, one hour for pulp.)

## Wild Roseberry Jam

To two cups puree add one cup sugar and cook slowly until thick, stirring frequently. Pour into sterilized jars and seal.

## Roseberry And Crabapple Jelly

Use ½ crabapple juice and ½ rose hip puree. To one cup of this mixture add ¾ cup sugar. Boil until a little sets when tested on a cold plate. Pour into a sterilized jar and seal at once.

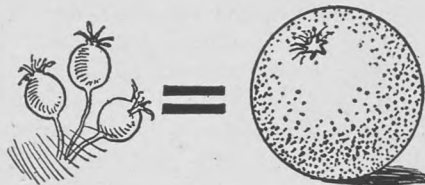
## Roseberry Catsup

4 qts. ripe berries 1 cup water (or  
2 medium-sized more if neces-  
onions sary)  
1 clove garlic

Boil these ingredients until they are soft. Strain them. Add ¾ cup brown sugar. Tie in a bag and add:

½ T. whole allspice ½ T. celery seed  
½ T. whole mace 2 inches stick  
½ T. whole cloves cinnamon

Boil these ingredients quickly. Add one cup vinegar, cayenne and salt. Boil catsup 10 minutes longer. Bottle at once. Seal the bottles with wax. (The flavor is excellent.)—L. V.



## Sharing Experience

Ed. Note: This year it is perhaps more important than ever to make use of rose hips. Three heavy frosts in California did much damage to the citrus fruit crops. As a result the prices of fresh oranges, lemons and grapefruit have already risen. The canned fruit juice is now more expensive.

We invite Country Guide readers to tell of any experience which they may have had in using rose hips. Write us a letter and tell us to what uses you have put either the syrup or pulp in making jams, jellies, drinks, etc. How have you overcome the bland flavor of the product? Have you worked out some special way of the somewhat difficult task of separating the pulp from the pits? What kind of reception have the rose hip foods had from the various members of the family? What are your favorite recipes for same? Keep your letter as short as possible and address it to The Home Editor, The Country Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

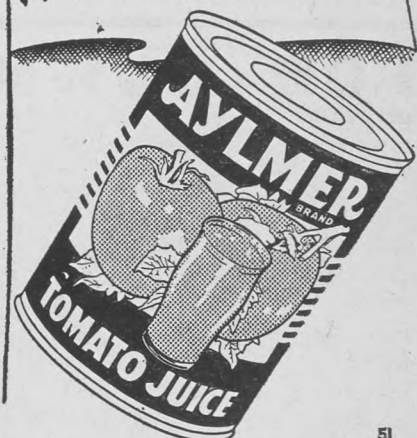
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# Ironing Pointers

Details that give a professional look

by MARGARET M. SPEECHLY

**T**O make a good job of ironing you need more than modern equipment. You must know how to treat fabrics of different kinds and to give special attention to those in which blends of fibres are used. Further you need to understand how textiles react to heat, moisture and pressure.

Generally speaking, materials are woven from two sets of yarns, one running lengthwise and the other crosswise. It is important to iron with the grain or weave of the cloth so that it will keep its shape and fit. Never iron diagonally or on the bias as this causes it to sag or become baggy.

Make it a rule to iron the fabric until it is perfectly dry, paying particular attention to seams and double thicknesses. Unless every particle of dampness is removed the seams will pucker and the entire article, when dry, will look rough and most unprofessional.

As you go along, stretch each seam with your free hand. In fact you will find ironing less tiresome if you use your palms for smoothing the material before you pick up the iron. This relieves muscle cramp which develops when working for long periods.

Rhythm plays an important part in ironing so practise working with smooth, even strokes and you will not get weary as readily. It is easier on the fabric too, since friction definitely shortens the life of most textiles.

Collars, cuffs, bands, belts, straps and other double thicknesses need careful ironing. Do the inside first and finish on the outside. With collars and cuffs start at the outer corner and iron towards the centre, stretching the material with your free hand. Then work inwards from the opposite corner. Each week as you sprinkle the clothes, experiment until you know exactly how much moisture is needed to give a professional appearance to single and double thicknesses.

Rayons and other synthetics require little if any additional moisture and a cool iron. If the heat is not automatically controlled, test it by touching the tip of the iron on an inside hem or seam. Some synthetics melt or stick to a hot iron. Work on the wrong side paying particular attention to double thicknesses. Finish by touching up the right side, using a press cloth to prevent shine.

Follow the same plan with satins and silk crepes. Silk taffeta stiffens if very damp or if the heat is too high. Silk pongees, on account of a tendency to spot, do best when almost dry and should be ironed inside out. Avoid shine on dark cottons by working on the wrong side.

Material made of wool needs to be steam-pressed. Work on the right side with a dampened press cloth between the fabric and the iron. Wool is sensitive to heat and can be scorched through a cotton cloth that shows no damage on the surface, so be sure that the iron is not too hot. Do not iron back and forth, but force the steam through with an up and down motion. While still steaming, raise the

nap with a clothes brush, working in one direction.

Cottons and linens look best when ironed on the right side with long, sweeping strokes. Fold table cloths selvedge to selvedge, right side out, then iron one side, turn and do the other. Press only the crease down the centre, fold again lengthwise but do not press the crease. Fold crosswise to suit.

Do lunch cloths the same way, with the centre crease parallel with the selvedge. If you press in crosswise creases the cloth will not lie flat on the table. Many attractive table coverings on the market are made of rayon either alone or woven with cotton. In handling blends of any kind use the heat indicated for the more delicate of the two fibres.

With a view to lengthening the life of fabrics, make a point of changing the location of the folds and creases. Pressing with a hot iron year after year on the same threads definitely weakens them, so it will pay you to fold your household linens in thirds instead of quarters.

To bring out the pattern of a monogram or an appliqued design, iron it face down on a thick pad. If you still use round doilies or centrepieces, work on the wrong side in one direction only to avoid wavy edges.

**L**ACES can be ironed on the wrong side if well shaped first with the fingers. Use an up and down motion. As a rule it is better to pin lace and crochet to dry point by point while still wet, on a padded surface. Iron veilings, and loosely woven materials and knitted goods with an up and down motion to avoid tearing or pulling out of shape. To freshen a veil, smooth it with your palms, cover with wax paper and press with a medium iron.

Perhaps you have noticed that some garments are more trouble to iron than others. Frequently this is due to the tension of the sewing machine. Unless both the upper and the lower threads are balanced perfectly and are at exactly the right tension, the stitching will pucker after washing. Not even the most skilful ironing can smooth it out. In doing your own sewing take time to check the tension and shrink the material before it is cut out. In buying garments look for pre-shrunk material and well-balanced stitching.

## Knitting Ideas

**W**HEN knitting diamond patterned sweaters or socks that require more than a few yarn bobbins use an empty one dozen egg carton for holding the bobbins. The different colors of yarn will fit into the sections and the carton will sit easily on your lap. Make a hole above each section to run each yarn through so as to save confusion. A thread of soft but strong pearl cotton knit in with the wool will make the heels of men's socks stronger. Or you can knit two strands of yarn. The latter is strong but will be somewhat bulkier.—Wilma Grant.

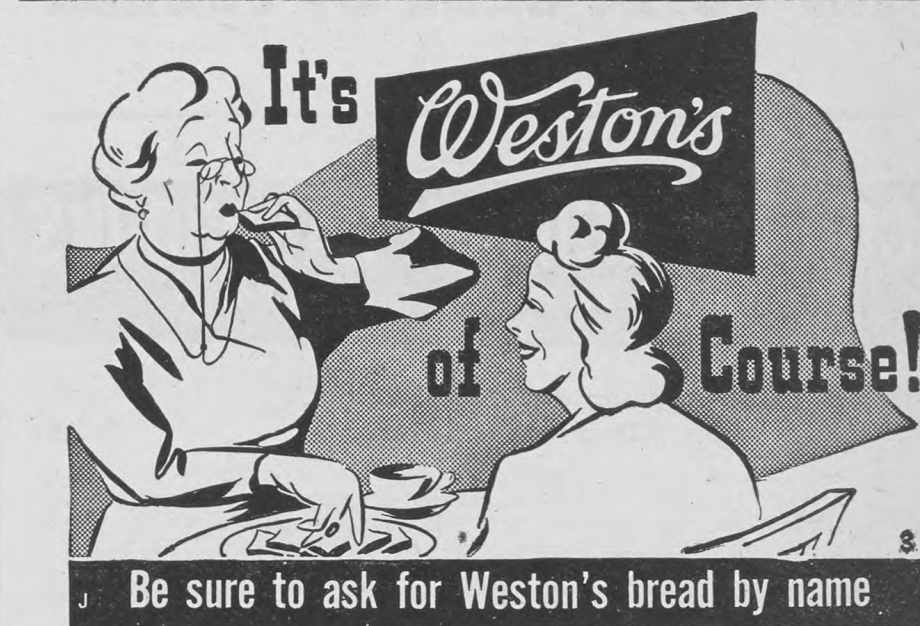
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## Hold-All Bags

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pattern

by ANNA DE BELLE

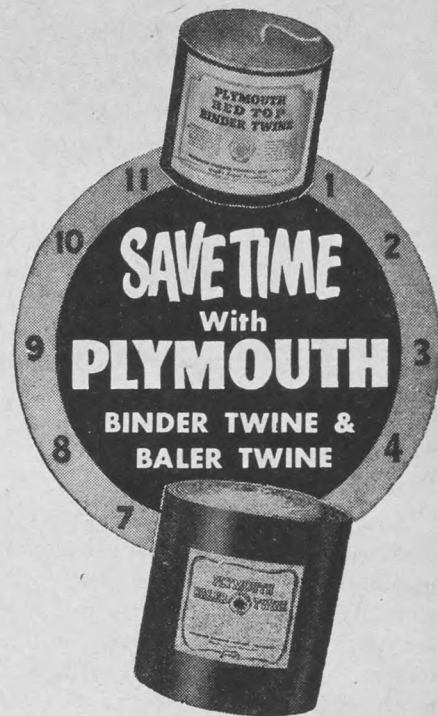


### Pattern No. C-351.

Two embroidery hoops—one at the top and the other at the bottom are the foundation for these two circular bags. One is crocheted, the other knit. Both are practical and a smart idea for bazaars and gifts. The square mesh shopping bag is excellent—easy to make and not at all bulky to carry about. All are in one pattern, No. C-351 and the price is 20 cents.

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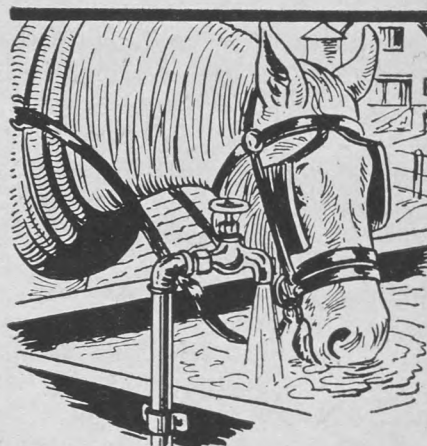
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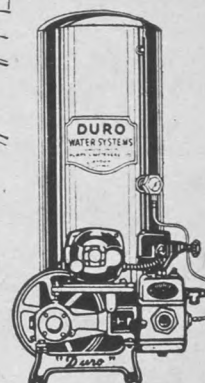
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# Tips for Today

Helpful hints on various subjects to aid the busy housewife

by LOUISE PRICE BELL

Keep penny postcards and a pen or pencil next to the radio, or in the drawer of the radio table. When programs offer information, samples or contests you can jot down the address and details right on the card and you won't have to copy it over.

\* \* \*

After using aluminum and other metal cooking utensils, allow them to cool off for a few minutes before soaking them. Otherwise they may warp from a quick change in temperature.

\* \* \*

If you line the basement walls with insulating board it will help to eliminate the dampness usually found there.

\* \* \*

To cheer up your bedroom make your own window shade. Mount a pretty flowered chintz on an old window shade roller. Use the old shade for a pattern.

\* \* \*

Protect your hats by glueing a stand in each hat box high enough to keep the hat from resting on the bottom, but not so high that the hat is crushed by the lid. Make these stands out of discarded salt boxes, bath powder boxes or cookie boxes.

\* \* \*

Don't throw away your old bathroom curtain that has become too worn for further use in the bathroom—or your plastic table cover either. You can make storage bags for your sweaters or other woollens out of them. They are transparent and you can see at a glance just what is in them. They keep out moths and are pliable and durable.

\* \* \*

When you vacuum your carpets, they will last longer if you move the vacuum cleaner with the pile of the rug and not against it.

\* \* \*

Epsom salts prevent delicate fabrics from losing their colors when they are washed. Simply add one teaspoonful of the salts to each gallon of water.

\* \* \*

Protect your miniature glass figures by anchoring them to a small purse mirror with glue or household cement.

\* \* \*

If candles are too large for your candlestick holders just dip the ends in boiling water until the right amount of wax is melted off. Your candle will look neater if you do this instead of chipping off the wax.

\* \* \*

Paste the address side of an empty envelope to your stationery box. It will be just the thing for your postage stamps. If you prefer use a large envelope instead, to keep your unanswered letters.

\* \* \*

An old shaving brush is good for dusting pleated lamp shades. The soft brush cannot harm the fabric, and the long bristles remove the dust easily from the fabric.

For more privacy in your house spray a coat of white paint on your screen doors and window screens. This will serve to make the interior less visible from the outside.

\* \* \*

Carry a few blank index cards in your handbag and you can jot down any recipe you may get at a party or when "the women get together and talk recipes." You can write the recipe permanently on one of these cards instead of scribbling it on the back of an envelope or some other scratch paper. This saves having to copy it over later.

\* \* \*

A quick way to hang curtains in your summer cabin is to use a white cotton clothes line instead of a curtain rod. Stretch the clothes line tight from hooks on either side of the window. Hang your curtains with regular clothes pins that have been enameled a color to match or harmonize with your room.

\* \* \*

Use for clothes pins—the snap kind—on stifling hot nights pin the inside of one edge of your curtain to the outside edge. The curtains won't be wrinkled and you will get a maximum amount of air.

\* \* \*

To keep a dresser drawer neat and to have everything right at your fingertips, use a four section silverware box to hold your brush, comb, hairpins and cosmetics.

\* \* \*

An inexpensive way to decorate the children's room is to make attractive pictures out of paper plates. Paint them any color you like and then paste nursery pictures on them. A small piece of tape will fasten them to the wall.

\* \* \*

For a piece of furniture that is always losing its casters, fill up the hole with melted paraffin and put the caster in while it is still hot.

\* \* \*

Whitewash flower boxes inside before filling with soil. This discourages insects and prevents the boxes from rotting.

\* \* \*

If bothered with mice try putting some strong moth preventives in places where mice frequent and you will be amazed at the relief from the pests. Mice hate camphor and will stay away from any place where it is placed.

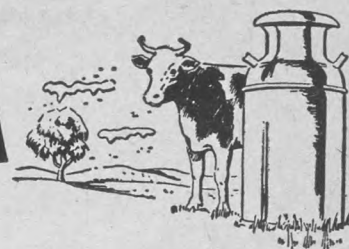
\* \* \*

When wallpaper needs patching don't cut out the patch. If you tear it the edges will be irregular and will blend with the pattern on the wall.

\* \* \*

Make your own cuff-links for your dresses and blouses. Simply connect two attractive matching buttons with a crocheted or worked cord of thread.

## GILLETT'S FARM HINTS



### ADVANTAGES OF LYE FOR CLEANING MILKING MACHINES

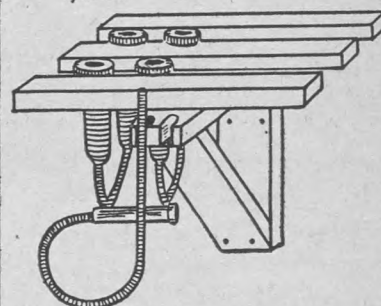
The cold lye solution method of cleansing milking machines has been used at the Government Central Experimental Farm since 1930, and is recommended because it is inexpensive, simple, and highly effective. Gillett's Lye dissolves remaining traces of milk in the machine after rinsing, greatly eases the removal of foreign matter and dirt, and prevents growth or actually kills bacteria present in equipment. The machine is left sanitary, fresh smelling, clean..

#### GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following system is recommended for care of the milking machine:

1. Immediately after milking the last cow, and while vacuum pump is still running, suck a pailful of clean cold or lukewarm water through teat-cups and tubes. Raise and lower the teat-cups so that air and water alternately surge through the tubes.
2. Disconnect the milk and air tubes from the pail-head and place teat-cup assembly on solution rack. Fill teat cups and milk tubes with a weak lye solution (2 tps. to a gallon of water).
3. Dismantle the head of the machine and place vacuum check valve in lye solution.
4. Brush the pail and pail-head with warm water containing dairy cleanser; then rinse and sterilize along with the other utensils.
5. Just before milking, drain the lye solution from the tubes and use it to scrub down the milk-room floor. Replace valve, reassemble.
6. Once a week, dismantle the milk tube system, adjust length of liners where necessary, replace badly cracked rubber parts, reassemble and fill with lye solution.
7. Once a month clean vacuum pipe line according to manufacturer's directions. In the event that these steps are neglected after a milking, the machine should be taken apart and the rubber parts immersed for 30 minutes in double strength boiling lye solution.

(4 tps. to a gallon of water). The metal parts should be immersed in boiling water 5 minutes, then hung up to dry. Lye solution should not be used on milking machines having aluminum parts in the milk tube system.



A solution rack is far more satisfactory than immersion of tubes and cups in container. This one, developed by the Department of Agriculture, is easily made. Note that the top of the long milk tube must be above the tops of the teat-cups to make sure that these are completely filled with the lye solution.

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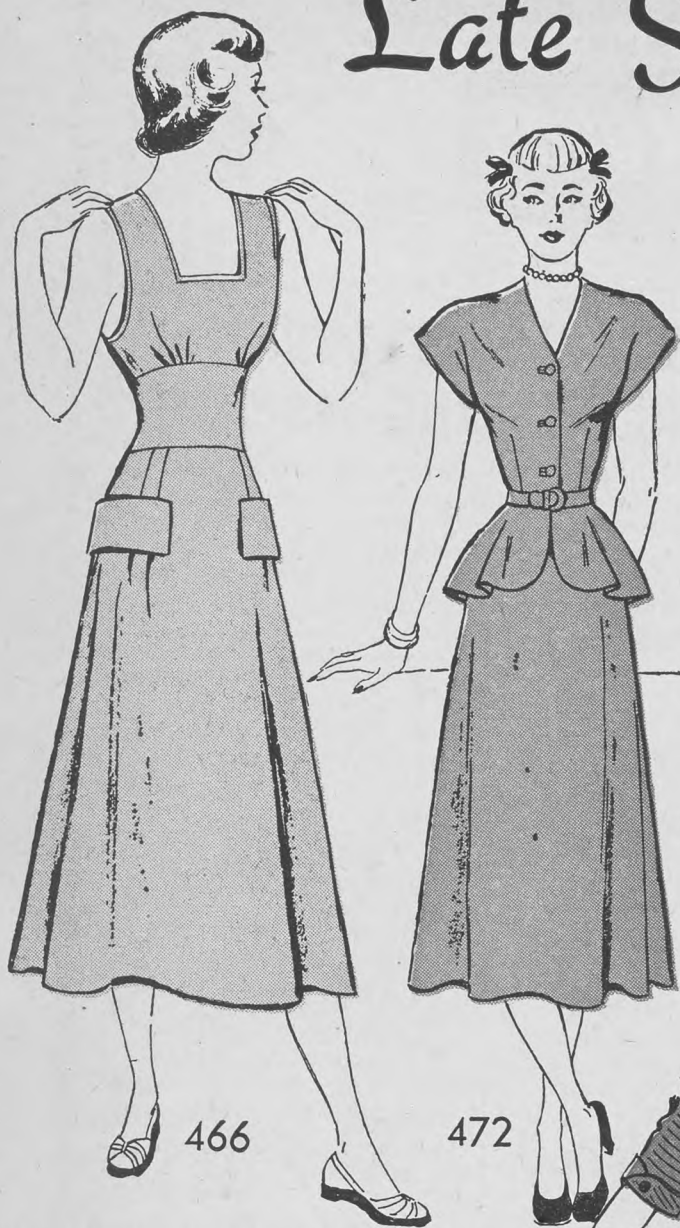
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No. 472—A parted peplum to ripple all around over a newer, slimmer skirt on a two-piece dress. Can have a smart scallop finish if you like. Sizes 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 years; 33, 35 and 37-inch bust. Size 13,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  yards 35-inch fabric. Price 25 cents.

No. 470—Flange shouldered dress with brief sleeves, can have a fly front or self covered buttons to parade all the way down. Try soft chambray in the new bronze tone. Sizes 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48-inch bust. Size 18 (36),  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards 39-inch fabric. Price 25 cents.

No. 471—Double feature, completely casual dress with a convertible collar. Has a choice of sleeve length and, if you like, an unusual button treatment all the way down the front. Slim, trim and easy to make in sizes 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 34, 36, 38 and 40-inch bust. Size 16 (34),  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards 35-inch fabric. Price 25 cents.



No. 467—Peg top pockets on a front flare dress with a new type collar to roll over and show a pretty throat. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 34, 36, 38 and 40-inch bust. Size 16 (34),  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards 39-inch fabric. Price 35 cents.

No. 1913—Tailored or ruffled sun suit with its own front buttoned blouse, to be buttoned on the playsuit to keep it from popping out! Sizes 6 months, 1, 2, 3 and 4 years. Size 2,  $\frac{1}{4}$  yard 35-inch fabric for playsuit;  $\frac{1}{4}$  yard 35-inch fabric for blouse. Price 25 cents.

No. 478—Button-up plastron front dress to make of companion cottons. Has brief sleeves and a face framing square neckline. Sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 8,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  yards 35-inch plaid,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  yards 35-inch plain. Price 25 cents.

Be sure to state correct size and number of pattern wanted.

Write name and address clearly.

No. 463—Night light; off the shoulder dress in two lengths. The bertha collar line makes a waist seem smaller by comparison. Have a capelet to toss on for travelling time. Try madras or shimmering silk shantung. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 34, 36, 38 and 40-inch bust. Size 16 (34),  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yards 35-inch fabric. Price 35 cents.

No. 1808—Frock dear to young hearts because it is gay and pretty; mothers favor it because it's practical and allows for adjusting to growing young figures. Sizes 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. Size 8,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards 35-inch fabric with 4 yards braid. Price 25 cents.

No. 1878—Pretty pinafore has "angel wing" ruffles in lieu of sleeves and buttons all the way down the back for easy laundering. Panty pattern included. Sizes 2, 4 and 6 years. Size 4,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards 35-inch fabric. Price 25 cents.

Note price of each pattern.

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## Peace Tower

Continued from page 4

words, as long as we have appeals to the British courts, we as good as say that our own Canadian courts are not fit to handle our own Canadian affairs. We say that a lot of Englishmen who know nothing about Canada, but who are learned in the law, will sit down and settle the fate of Canadians. How absurd it is for instance, for the case of a woman who lost her husband in a Canadian railway accident to have her whole fate wrapped up in the austere judgments of the Privy Council. Such an instance was the Herman Case, which I recall as having taken place when I was teaching school in Saskatchewan. What in heaven's name did these bewigged pundits know about Moose Jaw and the Canadian Pacific and a D-10 engine and the feeling of the railroaders in Saskatchewan or anything else? Yet this farce, this parade to make the lawyers dollar-happy, has gone on since Confederation. This 21st parliament can stop that.

Another hat-in-hand gesture we make is when we ask the British parliament may we please, may we pretty-please, change our own laws! Yet the British North America Act is an act passed by the United Kingdom, and every time we want to make any amendments to it, we have to send a petition there just as the far off natives of Bongo Bongo do to the Great White Father.

IT would be funny if it could not be vicious. This was particularly notable when Sir A. P. Herbert, noted for his humor, but a complete ignoramus about our affairs, went to bat for the Newfoundland isolationists—who had lined their pockets for generations at the expense of their fellow Newfoundlanders—and pictured Canada as some horrible ogre about to gobble poor little Newfoundland. Not to put too fine a point upon it, Comedian Herbert didn't know what he was talking about. What's more, he had no more business airing our affairs in the British Commons than he had babbling about our cabinet secrets. But Canada sooner or later has to put an end to this constitutional charade, and now, with that great majority, looks to be the right time.

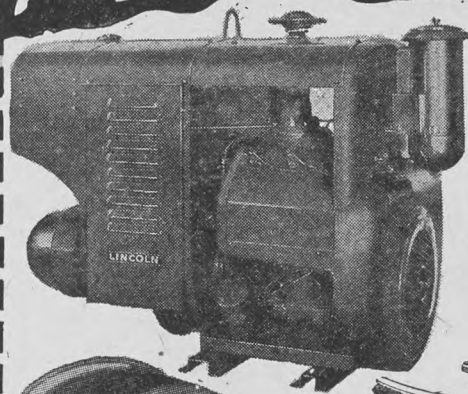
But watch the provinces jump in, if they can, to get their two cents' worth of publicity, and to talk about provincial rights. The plain fact is that this is a matter between Canada and Great Britain, and in real truth, the provinces should have no more to say in this than Lambton county or the federal constituency of Medicine Hat.

There are many other things to be tidied up. Mr. King, a great middle of the roader, brought Canada through the difficult years when you had to take the middle course or land in the ditches on either side. But it seems now as if our course has been paved, and we can travel at a faster clip, and with greater certainty, with far more safety.

MANY things remain to be done, which could never be done when you have only a hypothetical majority of 127-118, as in the last parliament. In the war years in the 1940-1945 House, it was hardly fair—even if it could be done—to use a big majority

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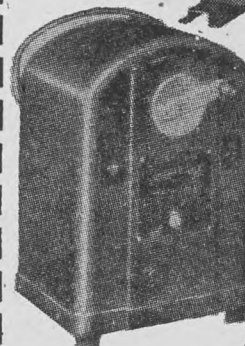


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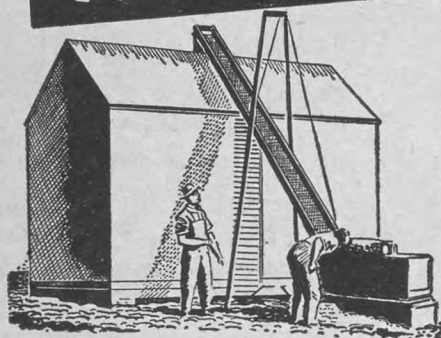


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to hammer home peacetime measures. You needed that pile-driver strength to hit hardest at war legislation. But now the war is more than four years behind us, the dark cloud which we call Russia seems to have passed over our heads, moving east and away from us.

Laurier said that the 20th century was ours, but except for two brief periods, this was hard to believe, harder to prove.

Today, with Canada enjoying a

boom while the great United States is undergoing a recession, we seem really to have, at long last, got where Laurier said we were going.

With both oppositions reduced to smithereens, with a mandate from all the provinces (out-of-step Alberta excluded) with a new prime minister acting on his own right for the first time, and with a blank cheque in his hands put there by the Canadian people, this if ever is the government's chance to get ahead. Indeed, with so

## Screwball Tribe

Continued from page 10

contingent of our birds went on a long foray and were in the process of mixing it up with a flock of the neighbor's turkeys. Fortunately for both parties the neighbor's dog rushed to the rescue and brought his master's strays back into home port, while I rushed over and did likewise, but with much less finesse than the dog.

THEREAFTER this was a daily occurrence. The ones roosting on roofs would fly down at dawn and straightaway head for the other bunch. This rendezvous was never completed, however, for we made it a point for one of us to be around to nip the migration in the bud.

In mid-August disease hit camp. Pullorum was making the rounds and was starting to take its toll. We were called upon to take immediate action for an epidemic would be the ultimate result and we stood a chance of losing the whole flock. Reading all the available literature on the subject, I was ready to do my duty. A vaccine was required along with a poultry syringe with which to administer it.

They had the right vaccine in the store, but the nearest they could come to a poultry-size syringe was a huge, bulky affair used for vaccinating cattle. It would have to do. I sterilized and assembled the syringe, filled it with the vaccine and was ready to commence. Mother held the turkeys while I administered the dope. They squirmed and squawked vigorously when the absurdly big needle was shoved into the flesh. The job was very crude but we forestalled the reaper as only two died after that. All told, we lost a dozen birds.

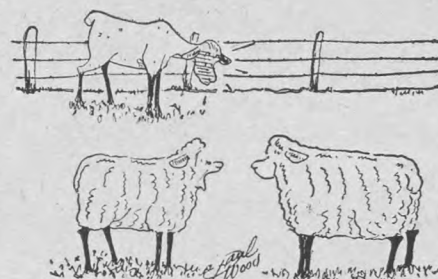
Gobblers are a very quarrelsome lot and have an insatiable yearning to be where they aren't, especially if another gobbler is in that place. On nights when the moon was full and bright, it was a common sight to see two or more of the brutes vying for honors on the roof anytime during the night. I remember waking at two one morning and seeing them going at it tooth and nail. It would start from one giving another a slight nudge. When they really got warmed up they would start jousting each other in earnest with the inevitable result that one or more would be knocked off. If someone wasn't around to put them on a perch they found the nearest dark corner and spent the night there.

Big toms become very pugnacious after they get so big. Anything that looks belligerent, regardless how much larger it may be, he will attack. Small children and animals being one of their favorite targets, all of which our little black pooch, Skippy, knew too well. He must have thought he was living in a nightmare during the time

the turkeys had the run of the place. More than once I saw him streaking across the yard with a big tom in hot pursuit. The situation got so that he wouldn't venture up into the top yard unless in the presence of one of the family. Then he had to dodge around our legs to discourage some curious gobbler who was making hostile advances.

But Skip was smart too. When he had to cross the top yard to keep an appointment on the other side, and there were turkeys in the neighborhood, he would sneak up as close as possible without being seen, then he dashed madly across. Before the slow-witted toms could come to their senses he would be safe on neutral territory.

Our real troubles came in the autumn. One evening in late September a heavy wind blew up which grew worse all the while. The turkeys roosting outside were having quite a struggle staying on their perches, especially those on the roof as many had their backs to the gale and the wind blew against their feathers. Pop



"He just wanted it 'thinned out' a little."

and I were outside surveying the situation deciding whether to put them inside. Pop said, "This is nothing; it'll blow over after a while."

Just as he finished, an extraordinary heavy gust of wind came up and two big toms came hurtling down practically around our ears and our minds were made up.

We went back into the house, put on more clothes, got out all available lights and went to work. The air was full of dust, the sky was clouded over and it was pitch dark. At first we took them off one at a time to carry over to the sheds. They were heavy. Groping and stumbling about with them soon caused us to change our tactics. We decided to take them all off the roosts and herd them into the shelter.

MY first task was to climb up on the roofs to get those down for they were taking the worst of the beating. Having about 40 down with about five to go, I was in the process of reaching for another. My footing gave way and I crashed down into a trough full of soggy bran. With much indignation I got up, checked the damage, clambered back up to complete my mission. On looking over we could see the neighbor was chas-

overwhelming a majority, you can almost call this, not the Liberal party, but the all-Canadian party. Surely never had any government such a chance; almost certainly never will any government get such a chance in the future.

This is Canada's century, and we have finally caught up with it. All Canada is looking at Prime Minister St. Laurent these days, and they are saying:

"Come on Louis, let's go."

ing his flock in by light of his truck headlights.

It was fortunate that the birds were sheltered and that we had enough space to accommodate them all, for during the night a heavy rain came and a fierce squall was the result. Not having enough room for his entire flock the neighbor lost nine of his birds that night and more later which could be directly attributed to the storm. Turkeys are hardy and these probably could have withstood the wind alone, but the cold rain penetrating under their feathers must have chilled them to the marrow.

On the subject of hardiness I can remember nights when the mercury dipped down to 20 and more below and the turkeys slept outside through it all. However, it was seldom that this was allowed to happen and when the forecast was for 10 or more below the birds were chased inside. We followed a sort of schedule. If the temperature was to drop below ten, only the hens were put in, and when it went below 15 the toms were shut up also.

As you probably know, turkeys are very unpredictable. Sometimes, when we chased them in it was no trouble at all. At other times they just stubbornly refused to go. The queerest sight happened after they were all riled up from being chased every which way. They appeared to go practically berserk. Each and every one would jump and leap about in the air, flapping his wings, making all sorts of weird noises. It looked as though somebody had gone around and given them all a hotfoot. Some of the nuttier ones lost control of themselves completely, flying over the fence in long flights, squawking incessantly.

December found us in the home stretch. We were feeding by the shovelful and trying every trick in the bag to put on those last additional pounds. We were trimming our screwball tribe for market. Shipping date was tentatively set for December 15 which would hit the Christmas demand. The night before the fifteenth we spent all the time between supper and midnight crating our birds. They were real heavy, averaging about 14 pounds for the hens and 16 or more for the toms. Even in the crates the toms had fracas.

When the truck arrived in the morning to cart them to the city, I felt a touch of sentiment for the first time. For all their silly carryings-on, their queer heeby-jeebies, the grief and misery they can cause, they're a fine, upstanding bird. We all had to admit that though we were glad to see them go, in a way we would like to have kept them. For all their faults they more than compensated for it with the laughter occasioned by their corny behavior.

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## Song In The Night

Continued from page 11

caution. He had no need for them, for neither wolf, bear, nor cougar dared try conclusions with him. He was an armored pincushion whose barbed quills, once they had entered the flesh, worked in and in, festering as they went.

Moving with that unhurried calm that none but the great achieve, Quills disappeared in the general direction of Ledyard's camp. About him, if one were sensitive enough to catch it, was the feeling that he was as mystically attuned to nature as the silent, inflexible march of the forest trees.

NEXT morning as he rolled out of his blankets, Ledyard caught another glimpse of the porcupine. It was making its way off into the woods at its usual rate, which was about three miles an hour in a straightway. Ledyard made a hurried check-up on his food supply and it was as he feared: A considerable chunk had been gnawed out of his slab of bacon. Quills had chewed a hole clear through the heavy knapsack in search of this chief abandonment of his kind. Ledyard cursed himself for a fool for not having shot the animal the day before. If he crossed the porky's path again, he vowed, he would kill it on sight.

Thus another day began badly. It was one of those tranced and pristine days in October. The stillness of a prayer lived beneath the high conifers and the distant song of a snowbird struck a note as melancholy as the remote line of pine spires that cut the blue skyline. But Ledyard was cut off from all this peace and beauty, walking alone in the moil of his irritations.

It was that afternoon that he met with a crucial accident. He had bagged a partridge on his way back to camp and as he was cutting firewood to cook the bird, his ax glanced off a pine knot, cutting his leg to the bone.

That effectually put an end to the farcical hunting trip of his, Ledyard decided, as he gave himself a rough first-aid treatment and bandaged his wound. It behooved him to get back to civilization quickly before infection could set in. He had five forest miles to travel to the nearest settlement. He would have to start at once. But by the time his packs were in order, his wound pained him so that he rolled into his blankets.

For a long time he lay looking up through the pine branches to the blue sky, greening with the coming dusk. His wound throbbed and burned and by the time he finally drowsed off,

fever was running through his entire body.

How long afterward it was he awakened he never knew, nor what it was that seemed to cry out a sharp warning through the mists of unconsciousness, something certainly akin to those guardian instincts that animals know, and without which all wild things would soon become extinct. The same thing that had warned him brought him back to full consciousness smoothly and subtly so that no slightest jerk or start accompanied it. Almost before his eyelids parted he was aware of the nature of the danger that threatened.

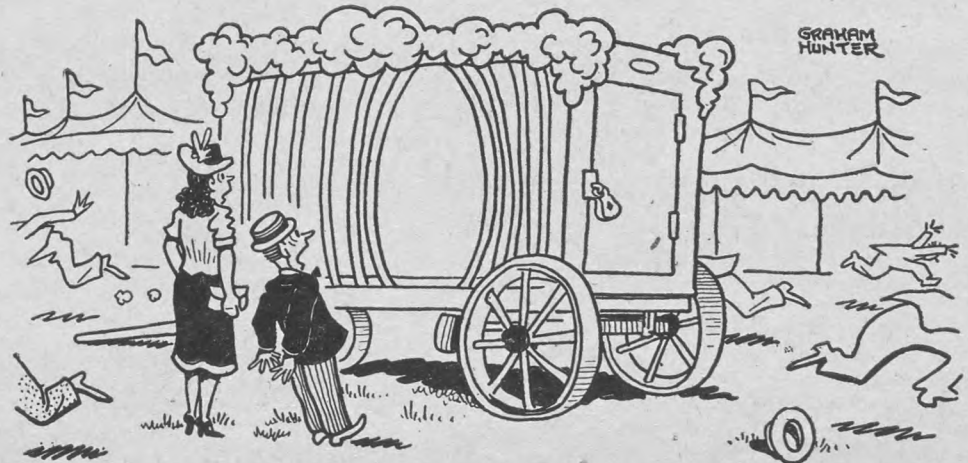
Overhead the cold sky was pollened with stars. A segment of waning moon shone feebly through the branches. In the faint light Ledyard half doubted the testimony of his eyes, though at the same time something within him did not. Something about the outline of the great pine branch directly above him drew and fixed his attention. And all at once he knew that a huge cougar was crouching up there; that it had been the grim fixity of the beast's regard that had jerked him out of sleep.

The limb of the pine was nine feet above him. The cougar had doubtless reached it by climbing another pine tree some hundred feet away and picking his way among the interlapping branches. Even in the midst of shock and amazement Ledyard figured that out. The fever had left his blood, he noted, but the pain still throbbed in his leg.


The cougar was stretched out along the limb, its powerful foreclaws unsheathed and gripping the bark in tense but silent savagery. Its yellow-notch eyes glowed lambently in the flat, downthrust head. By the fixity of those eyes and by every contour of the crouching form Ledyard knew that had he made a single abrupt movement on awakening the cat would have sprung.

He knew the nature of the cougar to be about eighty per cent ferocity, which is just another name for cowardice, and that under ordinary circumstances man had nothing to fear from them. But there were certain times, under certain conditions, when there was no more dangerous enemy in the wilderness. Let a hunter fall ill or be wounded, or let a woman or child be lost in the forest and it is always the cougar that will sense his predicament and skulk for days if necessary on the trail. This was one of those times. The great cat had sensed his plight in the uncanny manner of its kind, and in those lambent eyes, burning like live coals in the darkness, fear and murder struggled for mastery.

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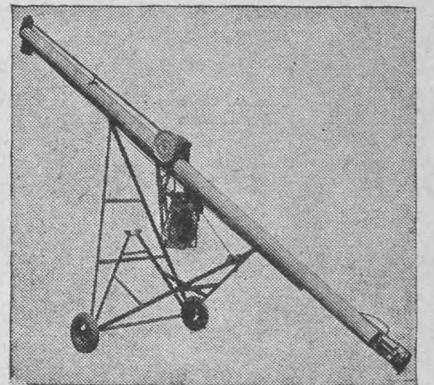
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actions in those grim moments. He kept his eyes but partially open, that the beast might not catch their gleam; and his whole body remained still, in a semblance of sleep. So long as he feigned sleep the cat would not bring itself to spring. The ingrained cruelty and indirection of the beast kept it from pouncing until its victim should move or attempt to escape.

THE moments dragged by, horrible, heart-thudding moments which taxed every atom of Ledyard's physical and mental control. His whole body ached and cried out to be moved and stretched. Yet he dare not move a hand.

The cougar remained frozen in an attitude of basilisk concentration, head sunk on paws, every muscle set except for the slow, undulating twitching of his tail tip, waiting for that moment when his ingrained fear of man should be swallowed up by the rising tide of his blood-lust. Ledyard's limbs grew cramped and numb from tension, and sweat broke out about his set mouth and eyes. He had located the exact position of his rifle, leaning against the trunk of the pine some six feet away, but he knew that a single move to reach it would precipitate a lightning spring.

As the minutes passed the impulse to move, to risk all on a desperate grab for his rifle, became almost overpowering. His cooler faculties told him that he would never live to fire a shot into the malevolent watcher above, yet his torment was becoming too great for calm judgment. Something must happen in another minute, another second, or he would throw all caution to the winds . . .

And then, even as he was on the verge of desperate action, came interruption.

A sound smote upon his over-stretched nerves—slight, but magnified like the report of a rifle by the crepitant stillness of the forest. And he saw a tremor pass over the lithe form of the killer above him. For a bated instant he held his breath. The slightest thing now, he knew, might draw a hurtling attack. Then he gasped in silent relief, for he had located the sound. So had the cougar. The flat head shifted in attention, and the eyes glared downward on the other side of the branch.

Quills, the porcupine, had recalled his stolen meal of bacon in Ledyard's camp and had returned in search of more. He was rummaging about in

the vicinity of Ledyard's dead camp-fire, giving vent to short grunts and faint rodent-like chatterings. Fearless and one-pointed in his quest, he was quite unaware of either man or cougar. Out of the tail of his eye Ledyard saw him come upon the knapsack filled with supplies. His chattering changed at once to the crooning elemental little song the man had heard the day before as he reached a hand-like paw into the hole in the sack and began to explore.

Above him Ledyard saw the puma quiver throughout, its tail lashing softly. The cat's shallow brain could focalize upon but one thing at a time, and for the moment the porcupine held his stage. Never an intrusion more fatefully opportune; it was the chance for which Ledyard had prayed.

Stealthily, almost imperceptibly, the man lifted the blankets and reached for his rifle, eyes never leaving the crouched form above him. His hand closed on the weapon and with a single follow-through movement he dropped to his back again and fired.

ALMOST at the same instant the cougar's head whipped round and he launched himself frenziedly downward. Ledyard fired once more from his prone position and in mid-air the cougar's outstretched body buckled and crumpled. He was dead before he struck the ground and Ledyard was avenged for those terrible minutes he had lived through.

As the breathless silence of the night and the forest fell once more over the camp, Ledyard found himself trembling all over with a cold that had nothing to do with the night frost. For a time he lay looking at the shattered body of the cougar which lay with unsheathed claws stretched out but a foot from his bunk. Then his eyes were drawn to the squat form of the porcupine, every quill erect and faintly limned in a patch of milky moonlight.

At the shattering sound of the rifle shots Quills had quickly doubled up in self-defense, thrusting his nose between his fore-feet. The raising of his quills had brought the light fur beneath them into view, so that he had the appearance of having actually paled with rage and fright. Minutes passed before the bristling spines slowly lowered and the little meddler returned to his rummaging. Ledyard smiled and made no move to stop him.

It was only now that the man actually sensed how near the end he had been, and with that a host of grim finalities trooped through his mind. He thought of the many hunting codes he had dubbed as sentimental, and knew himself all at once for a neophyte. He thought with a shudder of the inevitable outcome of this night had he shot the quill-pig the day before as he had been tempted to do. By a quirk of chance he had refrained, invoking protection from the equivocal gods of wilderness affairs, who had been objectified for a space in this inquisitive little beast. By a little act of tolerance he had been saved a fearful end.

Nature's laws, though cruel at times, were infinitely far-reaching and protective in the balancing of scores. Ledyard sensed this in the soft warmth of her sunlight and all her ambient airs as he limped down trail the following afternoon.

THE END.

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# The Country Boy and Girl

**BERRY PICKING** time is fun for boys and girls. First there is the trip out to the berry patch, then there is the fun of seeing who can find the most berries and perhaps the best of all is the lunch you have brought along to eat. After picking berries how good that lunch tastes to you and how quickly it disappears! When winter comes along you remember berry picking time again when Mother brings out a sealer of the raspberries you picked or surprises you with a saskatoon pie, some delicious strawberries or cranberry jelly with your Christmas turkey.

The answers for each of these puzzles begin with "Miss" like this example: What "Miss" sometimes causes amusement and sometimes causes trouble? Answer: Mischief. Here are ten for you to try.



1. What Miss is a blunderer?
2. What Miss is not a Miss.
3. What Miss brings trouble?
4. What Miss is naughty?
5. What Miss comes at Christmas time?
6. What Miss cannot be found?
7. What Miss is Father of the Waters?
8. What Miss describes a damp morning?
9. What Miss does not deserve confidence?
10. What Miss loses things?

Look for the answers on this page.

*Ann Sankey*

## The Song Sparrow

by MARY E. GRANNAN

ONE morning very early, I was sitting by my window, eating my toast and honey. All of a sudden, I heard the flicker of wings. I looked up and there was a little sparrow sitting on the sill. "Good morning, little sparrow," I said, "and what would you like of me? A piece of toast perhaps?"

"No," said the little bird. "I have heard it said that you write stories about birds and animals, and little children. But you've never ever written a story about me."

I laughed. "No," I said, "I haven't written a story about you, because there is nothing to write. What does a sparrow do?" And I answered the question myself without waiting to hear what he had to say. "All he does is sit on a roof top, or a tree all day long."

The little bird looked angry. "You are wrong," he said. "I do a great many more things than that. Why don't you spend the day with me, and find out for yourself what I really do?"

I laughed again, and said, "But how could I spend the day with you? I cannot fly."

"I have brought some fairy magic with me," said the sparrow. "I shall sprinkle it on you, and you'll be able to fly. And I shall make you invisible too . . . no one will be able to see you, as you fly at my side."

I thought that that would be fine fun, and so I allowed him to sprinkle his magic over me. I looked in the mirror after he had done so. I could see the chairs, and the tables and the books and the window, looking back at me in the mirror, but I couldn't see myself. His magic had worked. So away I flew with the sparrow. We went down town. We didn't have to wait for the traffic lights to turn from red to green, because we were high above the traffic. We sat down on the telephone wires for a little while and watched the buses whirring by.

the top of a bus?" the sparrow asked of me.

"Yes," I answered. "I've always wondered what it felt like to ride on the top of the bus." It was fun. We drove to the water front.

"Now," said the sparrow, "I'm going across the lake. There's a little boy over there, that I go to see every day. His name is Benny. He can't walk, and so he likes to see me."

I looked at the lake. "I don't think I can fly that far," I said to the sparrow.

"Who's going to fly?" asked the saucy fellow. "We're going over on the ferry boat." And without so much as buying a ticket, we flew to the rail of the boat, and sailed away to the other side. Benny was glad to see us. He asked the sparrow to sing a song for him. I wished that I might join in the singing, but Benny didn't even know I was there, because I was covered with magic.

We rode back on the ferry, and as we flew over the house tops, I chanced to look down. "Mr. Sparrow," I cried. "Do you see what I see?"

"A circus parade," laughed the sparrow. "Would you like to ride on an elephant?"

It was one of the things that I had always dreamed of doing. So we caught up with the parade, and as bold as you please, we sat down on top of the elephant's head and went merrily along, ahead of the band.

After we looked the circus over, the sparrow took me to a church steeple. We flew down into the choir loft and sat there listening to the old choir master playing hymns.

I was tired now, and wanted to go home. "And besides," I said to the sparrow, "I promised to write a story about you."

And I did! You've just read it.

## Answers To "Miss" Puzzle

- 1, Mistake; 2, mister; 3, misfortune;
- 4, misbehave; 5, mistletoe; 6, mislaid;
- 7, Mississippi; 8, misty; 9, mistrust;
- 10, misplace.

## I Want A Puppy

I want a puppy,  
A little brown puppy,  
I want a puppy with big, brown eyes;  
I don't want a white one,  
I want a just right one,  
I want a puppy for a nice surprise.

I want a puppy,  
A little gay puppy,  
I want a puppy to hold on my knee;  
Not a big tall one,  
Just a quite small one,  
I want a puppy to play with me.

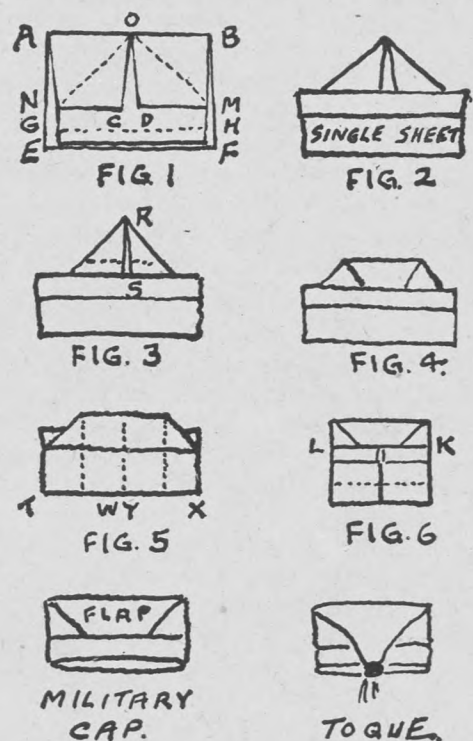
I want a puppy,  
A little fat puppy,  
I want a puppy with a stub of a tail;  
Not a long, shaggy one,  
Just a short, waggy one,  
I want a puppy—who has one for sale?

—MARJORIE ALLEN ANDERSON.

## Make Paper Caps And Hats

FOR party or individual fun, skull caps of paper are just the thing. No cutting! No tearing! No pins! No glue! No mess! Just you and a full sheet of newspaper!

To start, lay the doubled sheet on the table with the two open edges



You can very easily alter the form of the hat as follows:

Variation 1. Pull out the turned-over peak flap and attach a tassel to make a French style toque.

Variation 2. Pull out the turned-over peak and open up the hat to make the peak stand vertical so that you have a dunce's hat.

Variation 3. Tuck in the top of the hat to make a baker's skull cap.

For fancy party headgear instead of using newspapers, get some colored crepe or tissue paper. Make the sheets the same size as a double sheet of newspaper because this is just the size to fit your head properly when the hat is completed. If you cannot procure colored sheets the size of newspaper, paste together several pieces of colored paper to make the right size sheets. As a matter of fact, multi-colored hats for parties are more effective than those made of one color.

It makes a fine party game if you supply every one present with a sheet of folding paper and have each guest follow your instructions as you explain how to make the paper hats. Proceed as far as figure 6 and then allow each to finish in whatever style appeals the most.—Walter King.

## Fun With The Alphabet

ALPHABET patterns are easy to make and there is no end to the number of pretty borders you can draw.

Look at the A pattern. Here is the simple formula: Draw a straight line with your ruler, put on the V strokes, and then darken the letter lines.

The B pattern is really the number 13 with the figure 3 written backwards.

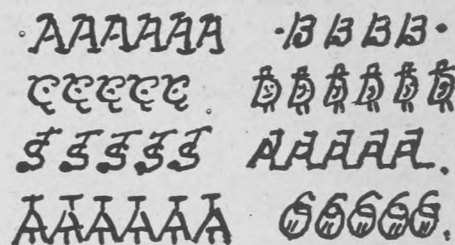
Since the letter C is too plain for a decorative border you must dress it up a bit with dots and what-nots.

D is a dandy. Put a top hat on him and mark in the face and then go ahead with E.

After practising with single letter patterns step out and try your hand at two-letter designs.

The S.T. and A.J. patterns are easy.

For the A.T. design if you place some small T's on top of the A and hide some small T's inside the A you will get quite an effective design.



Even if you run into clumsy looking letters like O.G. you can turn out quite a neat pattern if you remember that repetition of the same lines, neatly done, will always bring out a smart design.

Now work out a pattern using your own initials and draw it neatly inside the back of your scribbles as a special "trademark." If you discover it yourself, it certainly is yours.—Walter King.



# THE *Country* GUIDE

with which is incorporated

THE NOR'-WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME  
Serving the farmers of Western Canada Since 1882

VOL. LXVIII WINNIPEG, AUGUST, 1949 No. 8

## Grain Marketing Under Control

On August 1 the Canadian Wheat Board became the sole primary marketing agency for coarse grains as well as wheat. Thus, for better or worse, another important step was taken in socializing one of Canada's most important businesses, the marketing of the western grain crop. Now that action has been definitely taken, it is to be hoped that the Board will be given a fair chance to show whether it can produce better results for the western farmer than he was able to obtain under the open market system.

The Board undertakes this additional duty with a fair measure of support from farmers, East and West. In the West there was a widespread conviction that the only losers would be the shadowy interests collectively represented in the mind of the farmer as "The Grain Exchange." There was the feeling that as Wheat Board operations had imparted a measure of stability to wheat prices, so too control of coarse grains would put an end to sharp, and apparently unwarranted, price fluctuations for coarse grains. In the East there was the hope, publicly expressed on more than one occasion, that Wheat Board control would make it possible to buy feed at lower prices.

On the other hand, there are some who view the move with complete disfavor, and this group includes many who strongly supported the Board as the marketing agency for Canada's major crop. These people say that unless some genius devises a wholly unforeseen way of arriving at fair prices the grower stands to lose more than the most hostile critics ever attributed to the operations of the Grain Exchange. Some of them recall that the government sold wheat for domestic consumption at a lower price than could have been obtained for it on the foreign market. In a short crop year export may be restricted and the coarse grains crop marketed at a wholly artificial and unrealistic price.

The views of others may be expressed in this way. The Minister of agriculture has estimated that there are 450,000 dairy farmers and 200,000 grain farmers in Canada. The former are interested in getting feed at the lowest possible price. The latter are interested in getting what it is worth. The Board's job is to keep them both satisfied. On the open market, a buyer faced with rising prices has to put up or shut up. Under Wheat Board control he complains to his member. A sufficient number of complaints will affect price policy. Prices which ought to be determined by the simple process of trading will be settled by the relative volume of complaints. It is a contest in which the smaller group has two strikes against it to begin with.

For the Wheat Board itself, the halcyon days are probably over, for a time at least. For a few years, under the able direction of its chairman and his associates, it has done a good job of marketing the western wheat crop insofar as the government has left it free to do so. It is no reflection on the Board, however, to point out that since 1939 it has operated on a rising or strong market. Until recently demand for the product has been keen and there has been no difficulty in finding buyers for all the wheat Canada had for sale. In addition to the initial payment received by him each year, the farmer has received so many interim payments, patronage dividends, and special payments that he hardly realized the price per bushel that he was receiving. Farm income has been high.

During recent months however, the realization has been growing that for the next few years, Canada's greatest problem may be finding a market for its wheat. Developments of the last few months show that the world's wheat trade has become a segment of a larger and graver problem. Canadian wheat has moved to the centre of the stage where

the eyes of the world are focused on a tense drama, the outcome of which is wrapped in suspense and uncertainty. Sir Stafford Cripps' announcement of July 6 of the rate at which sterling reserves are diminishing, his stand-still order governing British imports until September, and his promise of a more comprehensive program to prevent further erosion of financial reserves, may become grim landmarks in post-war history.

It is one thing to operate a pooling arrangement with stable markets and a strong demand. The experience of 1930, and the years following it, showed that it was quite another matter to operate such an arrangement with unstable markets and a declining demand. Faced with increasing difficulties in selling wheat, the Board has not sought the additional responsibility of launching a compulsory pool for oats and barley.

Under any circumstances the task of the Board is not an easy one. The Minister of trade and commerce has said that the Board would function in the interests of the producer of coarse grains. The government will be well advised to implement that promise fully, and to give the Board a completely free hand. The West will resent any evidence that prices for oats and barley have been placed at lower levels than world trading would justify in order to buy political support in eastern Canada. And despite its smaller voting strength and apparent political disunity, the west has shown in the past that it can speak with a single voice, in perfectly plain accents, on an issue of this kind. It will do so again if events require it.

## Britain's Dollar Crisis

It has often been said that the major events which shape our lives occur in far off places. Nothing illustrates the truth of it better than the British dollar crisis of early July, still a matter of agonizing misgivings. It seems only a short time ago that a British under-secretary informed a surprised world that recovery in his country was almost complete. Today Canada's best customer for agricultural products is expressing doubts about her ability to continue buying from us on the same scale. What has happened in the interval?

The spark which lit the fuse was the turn in the American business cycle. At the first serious dampening of confidence, American industry cut down its purchases. Up to last March, rubber, tin, cocoa, diamonds and wool, the principal American imports from the sterling area, were bringing in an aggregate of \$120 million a quarter. Since then purchases of these commodities have been cut in half. Lower American retail prices have made it more difficult to sell competing British goods in the United States. Sales of British manufactured products in that country dropped 14 per cent in the first five months of 1949. Americans who had bills to collect in Britain pressed for early payment to avoid loss from a possible measure of devaluation. Prospective American customers delayed their buying as long as possible in the hope that devaluation would improve the terms in their favor. Not the least important were Britain's commitments as bankers to the sterling area, which required large dollar outlays, especially on the Belgian and South African accounts. If the sterling area fails to earn dollars it must balance its account by surrendering a portion of its reserves. By early July the Chancellor of the Exchequer was obliged to acknowledge that sterling reserves had fallen to £406 million, nearly £100 million lower than the minimum formerly declared necessary.

The United States, on the other hand, sold \$12.6 billion abroad in 1948 and bought only \$7 billion. The figures for the first six months of 1949 are \$6.6 and \$3.4 respectively. In her dealings with E.R.P. countries, Canada excepted, the United States sold \$5.17 worth of goods for every dollar she bought from them. Obviously this disparity cannot continue. The Americans eventually must close the gap between purchases and sales, or export the balance in the form of gifts or loans. To advance loans only puts off the day when the American creditor must accept commodities in payment. The continued flow of gifts from Uncle Sam, perhaps at an increased rate, is equally repugnant on both sides of the Atlantic.

At Geneva and Havana the United States and Great Britain agreed on a long-term policy of multi-lateral trading and the free convertibility of currencies. The Americans are impatient at the slow progress being made toward those ends. Their contribution to Britain's dollar problem is to urge a devaluation of the British pound with the facile assurance that it would reduce the price of British articles in the dollar market and discourage British purchases in the United States.

Sir Stafford Cripps has courageously resisted devaluation. He is fully aware that it might increase the physical volume of British exports, but because of the lowered buying power of sterling it would not increase Britain's dollar earnings at all. He has the experience of 1946 vividly before him. In that year, during negotiations over the American loan, Lord Keynes was forced against his judgment to agree to provisions which led to premature convertibility a year later. It was an expensive lesson for Britain. The same arguments which were used on Lord Keynes are now being paraded before his tough successor. While Britain and the United States are agreed on a long term policy of convertibility, the former is under the shadow of an emergency and must use stop-gap measures for quick relief which can be discarded when the danger is past. Devaluation is a poor prescription.

The inescapable truth is that world leadership, financial as well as military, has fallen suddenly on a country unprepared for such a heavy responsibility. In Britain's century of leadership there was a constant export of capital, but much more important there was a ready acceptance of commodities produced abroad. If western Europe is to regain its economic health, a necessary condition for firmly established peace, there must be a substantial reduction in the American tariff on British goods. It will achieve better results than juggling with currencies. It will be more palatable than complacent American advice to pull in British belts still another notch.

## Canadian Trade Prospects

The British dollar crisis is certain to have severe repercussions in Canada. The mid-July parleys between the three treasury chiefs appear to have ended inconclusively. It broke up with a re-affirmation of the objectives of the International Monetary Fund and the Havana charter. On July 14 Sir Stafford Cripps amplified his position by stressing the need for solutions which would maintain high levels of employment and enable world trade and payments to develop multilaterally. At the same time the British government released the first instalment of the regulations devised to restrict buying in the dollar area, and Canadians are anxiously scanning them to appraise their effect on our national economy.

Britain is aiming at a 25 per cent cut-back of dollar purchases, which is calculated to save her \$400 million annually. The other sterling countries, exclusive of South Africa have agreed to a similar scaling down, which adds another \$250 million saving when colonial purchases are added. Canada's trade with the sterling areas is now about \$900 million, of which \$700 million is with the U.K. Of this amount \$400 million is protected by contracts which will not be affected. The wheat contract alone accounts for \$320 million. Thus the most explosive issue in Canadian agricultural policy hitherto, turns out to be a sheet anchor until July 1950, when it expires. The outlook for the 1950 wheat crop does not appear reassuring. When the world wheat agreement was first signed, some opinions were expressed that inasmuch as the United States was a signatory, she was morally bound to make dollars available for it to become workable. There is nothing on the record that looks like a commitment. It is much more likely that if foreign purchasers cannot find the dollars necessary out of their own resources, the world wheat agreement will never go into effect.

A tentative estimate places the cut-back in Canadian exports to the sterling area at \$160 million for the coming year. Wood pulp, newsprint, lumber, tobacco and non-ferrous metals will certainly suffer. Incidentally the trade crisis brings out the information that Canada has now replaced the United States as principal supplier of British tobacco.